

# The Solicitors' Journal

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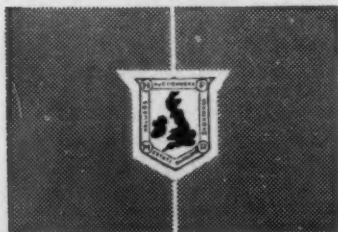
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# THE SOLICITORS' JOURNAL



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## CURRENT TOPICS

### The Queen's Speech

A VARIETY of legislation was foreshadowed in the Queen's Speech at the opening of the new session of Parliament on Tuesday. The most sensational item was the announcement of the Government's intention to take powers to strengthen the Army by extending the service of National Servicemen and recalling others. Of particular interest to lawyers will be the proposals to be presented to secure greater expedition and efficiency in the administration of criminal justice. The Road Traffic Bill is again to be introduced. In the social field Bills to be brought forward will deal with teachers' salaries, school-leaving dates and the award of grants to students; workmen's compensation supplements and administration of the family allowances, national insurance and industrial injuries schemes; development of National Health Service hospitals over the next ten years; and establishment of national training councils for health visitors and social workers. The limits of the liabilities to be assumed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department are to be raised in order to encourage exports. A Bill concerned with the reorganisation of British Railways will be presented. Proposals already made relating to the fishing industry are to be implemented. Immigration is to be controlled, and South Africa's new status provided for. Certain omissions from the Gracious Speech are as interesting as its contents. Lack of mention of measures to tax capital gains or to replace the Offices Act, 1960, for example, will not, however, preclude the Government from introducing them at a later date in the session.

### The Ombudsman Again

"JUSTICE," the British section of the International Commission of Jurists, have published a reasoned and detailed case for the appointment of a Parliamentary Commissioner whose functions would be similar to those of the Scandinavian Ombudsman. It is true that modern economic and social conditions, irrespective of which party is in power, make it necessary to confer wide discretion on the executive. It follows that the power of the law to control and restrain the exercise of administrative powers is strictly limited. So long as a Minister and his civil servants keep within their statutory limits, act in good faith, follow prescribed procedures, and observe the rules of natural justice where required, there is nothing that the law and lawyers can do. The *Daily Mail* says it is "a little depressing to find a group of lawyers tacitly admitting that the law is not doing its job properly": this is an out-of-date view. No one suggests that every administrative decision should be appealable, but between breaches of the law at one end and the day-to-day running of

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the country at the other there is a large, amorphous field of discretion over which virtually the only control at present is political, exercised by Members of Parliament. That this control is not as effective as it should be is not due to lack of enthusiasm, because one of the cheerful features of our political life is the readiness with which Members of Parliament champion the rights of the individual whether their own party is in power or not: the real limitation lies in the absence of staff to assist back benchers to unearth and investigate complaints of maladministration. For nearly a century the House of Commons has had at its disposal the initiative and help of the Comptroller and Auditor-General in investigating those activities of the administration which can be expressed in financial terms. Basically the new proposal is to extend the same principle to other activities, particularly those involving the rights of the individual. While we have no doubt that the authors of the report are right not to ask for too much all at once, particularly when they propose that at the outset the Commissioner would receive complaints only from Members of both Houses of Parliament, we think they are being unduly cautious in suggesting that the Minister concerned should have power to veto an investigation and that the Commissioner should have no access to internal minutes. We hope that the Government will consider the proposal favourably. We publish a summary of the recommendations relating to the proposed establishment of a Parliamentary Commissioner at p. 934 of this issue. (The report is published by Stevens, 10s. 6d.)

### Maintenance: the "Lump Sum" Payment

CAN a man properly enter into an agreement with his wife or ex-wife to pay her a lump sum in consideration of her renouncing for all time any rights she may have to a claim against him for maintenance? Many such contracts have been made, and no doubt fulfilled, but, since no private agreement can oust the court's jurisdiction to provide for a wife, they are unenforceable because they are against public policy: *Hyman v. Hyman* [1929] A.C. 601. However, if the court's jurisdiction is not ousted, but the terms of such an agreement are incorporated in an order of the court, then, once the capital sum has been paid, the wife is precluded from making any effective application to the court for maintenance: *Mills v. Mills* [1940] P. 124. This was the position until June this year, when MARSHALL, J., held that a wife who had entered into such an agreement (sanctioned by the court), and had received the lump sum, was nevertheless entitled to make a new application to the court for maintenance: *L v. L* [1961] 3 W.L.R. 544. The basis for this decision was s. 1 of the Matrimonial Causes (Property and Maintenance) Act, 1958, which empowers the court to make orders for maintenance not only on a decree, as formerly, but at any time thereafter. If this were the true effect of the 1958 Act, it seemed that many ex-husbands might find themselves threatened by the ghosts of financial responsibilities which they had long thought safely laid, perhaps by an act entailing considerable sacrifice on their part. But before the courts could be overwhelmed by the rush of ex-wives wanting to jump on the *L v. L* bandwagon, the case has been reversed by the Court of Appeal, as we report this week at p. 930, and the position is now as it was following the decision in *Mills v. Mills*. Since leave to appeal to the House of Lords has been refused, this is the last word on the subject. This is a happy result: it would be inconvenient and unjust for husbands and wives, and create difficulties for their legal

advisers, if they could not enter with impunity into contracts, for their mutual advantage, to settle the question of maintenance once and for all by a lump sum payment. But it must be borne in mind that such a contract is still unenforceable *per se*; only if it is embodied in a court order can it be of any protection to the husband.

### Meaning of "Article"

WHEN the case of *Longhurst v. Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board* was before the High Court ([1960] 2 Q.B. 265), LORD PARKER, C.J., held that water could be an "article" within s. 151 (1) of the Factories Act, 1937. His lordship found support for this decision in the observations of Scott, L.J., in *Cox v. Culter & Sons, Ltd., and Hampton Court Gas Co.* [1948] 2 All E.R. 665, but when *Longhurst's* case reached the Court of Appeal ([1961] 1 Q.B. 408), DEVLIN, L.J. (as he then was), did not think "that anything can be called an 'article,' either in strict terminology or in ordinary language, unless it has shape and form." It seems that the House of Lords (p. 866, *ante*) did not share these reservations and LORD REID went so far as to say that the word "article" in s. 151 (1) of the Act of 1937 "was capable of meaning anything corporeal." It followed that the water in the filter house of a pumping station was an "article" and that by reason of its treatment there the premises were a "factory" within the meaning of the definition in s. 151 of the 1937 Act. The New Zealand Court of Appeal was faced with a similar problem in *Weedair (N.Z.), Ltd. v. Walker* [1961] N.Z.L.R. 153, where the question arose as to whether the word "article" used in s. 5 (3) of the Civil Aviation Act, 1948, included chemical liquid carried by an aircraft for the purpose of spraying weeds. CLEARY, J., was of the opinion that "the word was intended to apply comprehensively to things that might fall from an aircraft, and that there is no justification for saying that it does not extend to liquids." Another interesting point arising out of the decision of the House of Lords in *Longhurst's* case is that LORD GUEST thought that it was not without significance that in s. 103 (5) of the 1937 Act it was found necessary to exclude electrical energy from the definition of an "article" for the purposes of the definition in s. 151 of that Act, the assumption being that otherwise it might be an "article." However, in *Granada T.V. Network, Ltd. v. Kerridge* (1961), *The Times*, 10th October, the Lands Tribunal held that an electrical impulse transmitted from a television studio was not an "article" within the meaning of s. 149 (1) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. As Lord Reid stressed in *Longhurst's* case, the word "article" has many different meanings or shades of meaning and the context in which it occurs is of crucial importance.

### The Solicitors' Journal on Microfilm

THE contents of all our issues published in 1960, totalling well over 1,000 pages, have recently become available on microfilm. At this stage, perhaps, not exactly exciting news for the practising solicitor, who is unlikely to have equipped himself with the necessary "reader" for projections. Legal and other libraries no doubt may be interested and even for the ordinary solicitor it is a pointer to the future. The whole of last year's issues are held in a box 3½ inches square by 1½ inches. For any reader who is interested now, the microfilming was carried out by Universal Microfilms, of 44 Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2, who will be pleased to supply details.



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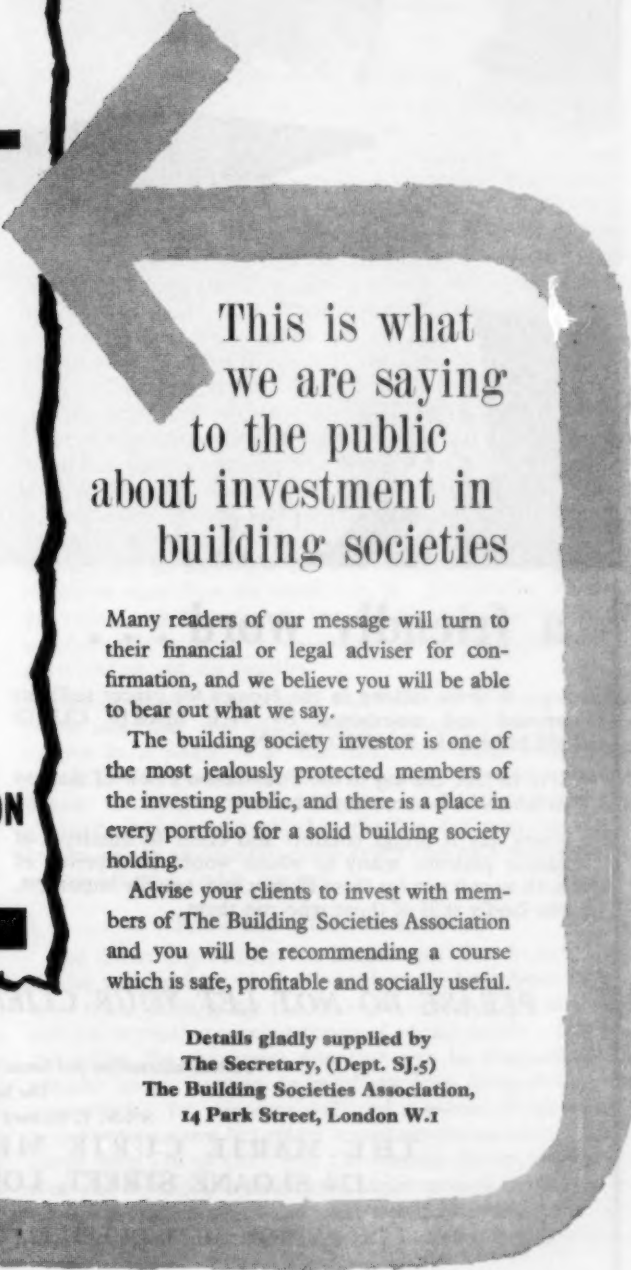
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## THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT, 1961—I

WHEN in October, 1959, the Home Office set up a committee under the chairmanship of Lord Ingleby to inquire into, and make recommendations on, the working of the law relating to juveniles and to the prevention of cruelty to children, there was widespread anxiety about the procedure available for dealing with the mounting figures of juvenile crime and the moral and physical dangers to which children were exposed. But between the time of the Ingleby Committee's appointment and the publication of their report in 1960 the position had greatly worsened, and that there was urgent need for reform could hardly be in doubt. The report, which dealt comprehensively with the whole problem, put forward many suggestions for far-reaching changes in our juvenile court procedure (see 104 SOL. J. 1022), and it was hoped that these would, if acted upon, do something to check the wave of juvenile crime. The only action of the Government which has so far been taken to implement these recommendations is to be found in the Criminal Justice Act, 1961, some sections of which became operative on 2nd October (see p. 771, *ante*). But whether the minor reforms made by this statute will have much effect on juvenile crime is doubtful: while modern society "keeps its underdogs in a permanent state of torpor by stuffing them with trash" (to quote from John Osborne), it is not really the answer to invent new punishments, and extend the old ones, for those who rebel against the dreariness of life. We have learnt that there are worse things for the young than deprivation of material things, but we have not learnt how to make good the deficiencies still suffered by the great mass of young people who, with all their high standard of living, are probably just as underprivileged as their parents were in the twenties and thirties. None of the suggestions made by the Ingleby Committee for shifting the emphasis from punishment to prevention have been followed in this Act and the best that can be said is that it enlarges the scope of courts in dealing with young offenders, strengthens the organisation of the approved school and tightens up the supervision of delinquents.

### Changes in borstal and prison sentences

The minimum age which qualifies for borstal training is now reduced from sixteen to fifteen years, but such a sentence may only be passed if the court considers that the accused should be detained for training for not less than six months. Also, no offender of less than seventeen years of age shall be sent to borstal training unless the court is of the opinion that no other method of dealing with him is appropriate (s. 1). The maximum term of a sentence of borstal training is reduced from three to two years and the minimum term from nine to six months (s. 11). The period of supervision after release is reduced to two years. All courts, including magistrates' courts, are given the power to send back to a borstal institution any person convicted of another offence during supervision after a borstal sentence or during an escape (s. 12).

Under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, courts have the power to sentence juveniles found guilty of various serious offences, such as attempted murder and grievous bodily harm, to detention for any specified period; under s. 2 of the new Act this power is extended to all offences which in an adult would be punishable with imprisonment for fourteen years or more. The minimum age for the imposition of prison sentences by assizes and quarter sessions on indictment is raised from fifteen to seventeen years, thus bringing the age-

limit for imprisonment by higher courts into line with the summary jurisdiction.

The trend of reform has been to keep people under twenty-one out of prison as far as possible, and it is generally recognised that short terms of imprisonment are of little value in dealing with the young. Section 3 provides that no sentence of imprisonment for a term between six months and three years shall be imposed on an offender within the age limits qualifying for borstal—that is, from fifteen to twenty-one years. There is further provision that the clause relating to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months may be repealed by Order in Council approved by resolution of each House of Parliament, thus allowing for the possibility that not only intermediate but also short-term imprisonment may soon be abolished for the young.

### Detention centres

The abolition of short-term imprisonment is dependent on the availability of detention centres, which were the invention of the Criminal Justice Act, 1948, and which have been used to their full capacity as they became available. This method of short, sharp punishment is believed to be particularly satisfactory for the young offender who has failed to respond to milder measures and it is hoped that eventually this form of punishment will entirely displace prison sentences for those under twenty-one. The difficulty is that there is insufficient accommodation available for all the offenders who might benefit from such treatment, but the number of centres is to be increased in the near future. The Ingleby Committee recommended that all sentences to detention centres should be for a standard period of three months, but s. 4 of the Act prescribes sentences of not less than three and not more than six months where the maximum term of imprisonment would be over three months, and in any other case a term of three months. Where the offender is under seventeen years of age, he may not be sent to a detention centre for less than one month or more than six months (s. 5). Consecutive terms of detention may be ordered, but the aggregate of the terms which may be imposed by the same court on the same occasion must not exceed six months.

Provisions are made in s. 15 and in Sched. I for supervision to be exercised over all offenders released from detention centres for a period of a year, and while under such supervision offenders may be recalled to a detention centre for any failure to comply with a requirement of the supervising authority (who is unspecified in the Act, but must be named by the Prison Commissioners in every case in a notice served on the offender on his release).

### Fines and attendance centres

The limits imposed by the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952, on the fines which young offenders could be ordered to pay were made derisory by the decrease in the value of money and the increasing earning power of young people. The new Act raises the maximum fine that can be imposed on an offender under fourteen years of age from forty shillings to ten pounds; for offenders guilty of a summary offence and over fourteen years but under seventeen the maximum fine is raised from £10 to £50. But £50 remains the maximum fine that can be imposed on anyone under seventeen even if the offence is one for which the court would otherwise have been able to impose a heavier fine, which includes the majority of



indictable offences. It is also made clear that parents can be ordered to pay compensation for loss caused by their child's offence (s. 8).

Since attendance centres seem to be particularly suited to dealing with the very young and with first offenders, it was a disadvantage that such sentences could not be imposed under the age of twelve years. This minimum age is now lowered to ten years (s. 10), thus giving magistrates a useful method of dealing with children at a very awkward age, when little else is available that really touches them: the loss of leisure and

the unwonted discipline of the attendance centre, falling as they do during the sacred hours of Saturday, are regarded as a serious form of punishment by children. The Ingleby Committee were told by expert witnesses that the maximum of twelve hours' attendance was insufficient, and courts are now to have power to order attendance for up to a total of twenty-four hours. Before making any attendance centre order, however, the court must be satisfied that the centre is reasonably accessible to the child.

(To be concluded) MARGARET PUXON.

## BLEAK OUTLOOK FOR TRADE PACTS

THE main impression which is left on consideration of the year's work so far in the Restrictive Practices Court is that it is becoming increasingly difficult to persuade the court that any form of price restriction can be justified as giving specific and substantial benefits to the public as purchasers and consumers. A number of new and often ingenious arguments have been tried out before the court in an attempt to justify price restrictions, but only in one case were they to any extent successful. Two of the highlights of the year have been the partial success of the Cement Makers' Federation, and a conflict of judicial opinion on a point of law between two legal members of the court. Under para. 5 of the Schedule to the 1956 Act, the opinion of the judge sitting as a member of the court upon any question of law is to prevail, but as the volume of work has recently compelled the court to sit in two Divisions, the possibility of some judicial conflict is now more likely to arise.

### Motor vehicle distribution

The first reported decision of the year was *Re Motor Vehicle Distribution Scheme Agreement* [1961] 1 W.L.R. 92; L.R. 2 R.P. 173; p. 90, *ante*, on the distribution and sale of motor vehicles in the United Kingdom. There was considerable public interest in the court's decision that the restrictions in the agreement were void, but the hope that there would be a resulting fall in the price of motor cars has not been entirely realised. The agreement was operated by the "Big Five" motor companies, and obliged the signatories to prescribe the retail price of their products, and to appoint as franchised dealers only those firms who complied with certain conditions as to staff, equipment and premises.

Originally, car manufacturers made multipartite agreements between their main distributors (or "franchised" dealers), their non-franchised retail dealers, and themselves, to fix the conditions under which the cars were to be sold. After the Restrictive Trade Practices Act was passed, these agreements were regarded as probably illegal under s. 24 of the Act (which prohibits collective enforcement of resale price conditions) and so were replaced by bipartite agreements between manufacturer and distributor on the one hand, and manufacturer and dealers on the other hand, thus avoiding any legal nexus between all three. In *Re Austin Motor-Car Co., Ltd.'s Agreements* (1957), L.R. 1 R.P. 6, these bipartite agreements were held entitled to exemption from registration under s. 8 (3) of the Act.

### Collective policy agreement prohibited

In order, however, that car manufacturers could follow a united policy in regard to distribution, it was necessary

to superimpose upon this system of bipartite agreements an arrangement between the manufacturers themselves that they should collectively agree to enforce a policy of price maintenance in their own individual cases. It was this latter agreement which was declared by the court to be contrary to the public interest. The present position is that, while manufacturers can ensure that their dealers sell their own products only at the prices fixed by the manufacturer, other manufacturers are free to allow their dealers to cut list prices and sell new cars at a discount, and the manufacturers cannot make an agreement to follow a price maintenance policy. This means therefore that, while there can be no competition between dealers selling the same make of car, there can be competition between dealers selling different makes, and such competition is likely to be beneficial to the public.

The manufacturers sought to justify their agreement on the argument that the scheme provided the public with a nation-wide network of efficient distributors and dealers and ensured a proper after-sales and repair service, which would not prevail under more competitive conditions. The court held, however, that there was no evidence that in the absence of such a scheme the public would be deprived of an adequate distributive and repair service.

### The export market argument

In two cases, manufacturers' associations tried to justify their agreements under s. 21 (1) (f) of the Act, which provides that—

"having regard to conditions actually obtaining or reasonably foreseen at the time of the application, the removal of the restriction would be likely to cause a reduction in the volume of the earnings of the export business which is substantial either in relation to the whole export business of the United Kingdom or in relation to the whole business (including export business) of the said trade or industry."

The cases were *Re Associated Transformer Manufacturers' Agreement* [1961] 1 W.L.R. 660; L.R. 2 R.P. 295; p. 302, *ante*, and *Re Linoleum Manufacturers' Association's Agreement* [1961] 1 W.L.R. 986; p. 572, *ante*.

In the former case, the manufacturers fixed minimum prices for transformers, generators and other heavy electrical equipment. Exports were covered by a separate agreement, which had a different basis for price fixing from the United Kingdom agreement, but which resulted in level tendering, a practice which the court found to be disliked abroad and which had resulted in the loss of at least one substantial order to the United Kingdom. Under the export agreement manufacturers also worked together on the collection, evaluation and exchange of technical and commercial information on foreign markets.

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The argument for the manufacturers under s. 21 (1) (f) was that, assuming there would be a price war if the home market agreement were abrogated, this would also bring about a reduction of exports, because in such a price war there would be a reduction on expenditure designed to secure exports, such as the retention of local agents and research into local market conditions, manufacturers would be less inclined to tender for exports when home prices were low, and technical collaboration under the export agreement would cease.

These arguments did not prevail upon the court. It was held on the evidence that in the absence of the agreement there would not be any less inclination to obtain exports; further, that collaboration between manufacturers in the exchange of commercial and technical information on foreign markets was not of any great value, but that if it were, it would survive the abrogation of the agreement; finally, a system involving a restrictive practice such as level tendering would have a tendency to decrease export earnings.

#### The linoleum industry

The British linoleum industry is the largest single exporter of linoleum in the world, and about one-third of the total production is exported. In addition to a home agreement which imposed minimum prices and sale conditions, the manufacturers also belonged to an international association of export manufacturers known as the Convention, which issued price lists for the European and Commonwealth markets. The association argued that abrogation of the home agreement would bring a price war which would mean a fall in home and subsequently export prices, and this would lead to the abandonment of the Convention, which was beneficial to British exports; furthermore, reduced export prices would automatically mean lower export earnings, and foreign manufacturers would seek higher national tariffs against British exports. The court rejected these arguments, holding that competition between British manufacturers would not necessarily lead to the abandonment of the Convention, or to a substantial reduction in export prices or earnings.

#### The "price war" argument

The "price war" argument featured in both the *Transformer* and the *Linoleum* cases, and also in *Re British Bottle Association's Agreement* [1961] 1 W.L.R. 760; L.R. 2 R.P. 345; p. 325, *ante*. The members of the Bottle Association manufactured about 80 per cent. of all the glass bottles and containers supplied in the United Kingdom, and operated an agreement fixing minimum prices. There were a number of features particular to the industry which, it was argued, would lead to instability of prices, lower quality and service, and no stock piling of goods by manufacturers to meet fluctuating demand. These special features were that bottle manufacture was a continuous process industry, in which furnaces had to be kept in continuous operation to ensure economic production; there were seasonal fluctuations in demand, which meant that manufacturers had to keep large stocks; and the majority of customers required bottles made to their own particular specification and requirements. The court held, however, that as there was no prospect of excess capacity in the industry in the future, it was unlikely that price competition would result in a "price war," and any price reductions which did occur would not seriously prejudice the industry or its customers.

In the *Linoleum* case it was argued that there would be a price war which would lead to debasement of quality,

inadequate stock holding, and higher prices in times of higher demand. In the *Associated Transformer* case it was argued that in a price war there would be less spent on research and development, and there would be depreciation in quality, with the result that newer, better transformers would not be produced cheaply or efficiently. The arguments were not successful in either case.

#### The cement makers' agreement

In *Re Cement Makers' Federation Agreement* [1961] 1 W.L.R. 581; L.R. 2 R.P. 241; p. 284, *ante*, the manufacturers were to some extent successful in justifying the restrictive clauses in their agreement. The court was satisfied that the scheme operated by the cement makers had resulted in substantially lower prices than would prevail under competition. This result was reached in part by the particular capital investment conditions of the industry.

The court was satisfied on the evidence that the industry had operated at a modest profit margin, and that the average rate of profit on capital employed was lower than that to be found in the manufacturing industries generally. Members received a profitable return on the capital invested in new works of under 10 per cent., but in a free market members would require a minimum return of 15 per cent., in view of the greater risks involved. Members were content to accept a 10 per cent. return because of the greater security which their price scheme afforded them. If the scheme were abrogated, in order to attract investment in circumstances of free competition it would be necessary to increase overall prices by about 16s. 6d. a ton. The court held accordingly that the benefit of lower prices which obtained under the agreement was a specific and substantial benefit to the public.

#### A conflict of opinion

So far, no matter has arisen in the court which has been the subject of an appeal on a point of law to the Court of Appeal, as is provided in para. 7 of the Schedule to the Act. A divergence of judicial opinion has occurred, however, which could form the subject of such an appeal. In *Re Wholesale Confectioners Alliance's Agreement* (No. 2) [1961] 1 W.L.R. 613; L.R. 2 R.P. 231; p. 284, *ante*, the court had found contrary to the public interest certain price restrictions in an agreement between the members of a trade association. The Registrar sought, *inter alia*, an order under s. 20 (3) and (4) of the Act to restrain the association from giving effect to the agreement. Russell, J., expressed a tentative opinion that the association itself was not to be regarded as a party to the agreement, nor was it "carrying on business within the United Kingdom" in the sense in which the phrase was used in the Act.

This differs from the view more recently expressed by Diplock, J., in *Re Newspaper Proprietors' Association's Agreement* [1961] 1 W.L.R. 1149; p. 667, *ante*. There all the restrictions in an agreement between the Newspaper Proprietors' Association and the National Federation of Retail Newsagents relating to the distribution and sale of daily London newspapers were declared contrary to the public interest. After judgment, it was argued on the authority of the *Confectioners* case that the court had no jurisdiction to grant an injunction against the Federation, since it was not a party to the agreement carrying on business in the United Kingdom. Diplock, J., said that the court had concluded that the Federation was such a party, and an injunction would therefore be granted, but the question of whether the view earlier expressed was correct was a matter of law which could go to the Court of Appeal.

N. G.

## Oversea Influence of English Law

## NEW ZEALAND—I

By Professor A. G. DAVIS, LL.D., of the University of Auckland

NEW ZEALAND is—or rather was—a settled colony, though what act or exercise of authority conferred the sovereignty of the British Crown on that country is still a matter of dispute. To such a colony, the settlers carry with them the law of England. As Blackstone (Commentaries, vol. I, p. 107) says: "If an uninhabited country be discovered and planted by English subjects, all the English laws then in being . . . are immediately there in force. But . . . such colonists carry with them only so much of the English law, as is applicable to their own situation and the condition of an infant colony; such, for instance, as the general rules of inheritance, and of protection from personal injuries."

This view was confirmed by the Privy Council in *Kielley v. Carson* (1842), 4 Moore P.C. 63. Delivering the advice of the Privy Council, Parke, B., said: "Newfoundland is a settled colony and to such colony there is no doubt that the settlers from the mother-country carried with them such portion of its common and statute law as was applicable to their new situation, and also the rights and immunities of British subjects."

At common law, therefore, there was no doubt that the early settlers in New Zealand brought with them such English law as was applicable to them in that country. The New Zealand Legislature was not content, however, to leave the situation to be governed by the common-law principle. The English Laws Act, 1858 (since repealed and substantially re-enacted in the English Laws Act, 1908) provided that the laws of England as existing on 14th January, 1840, so far as applicable to the circumstances of New Zealand, and in so far as the same were in force in New Zealand immediately before the commencement of that Act, should be deemed to continue in force in New Zealand and should continue to be applied in the administration of justice. A proviso in the present statute, enacted in 1880, provided that the laws of England relating to usury should not be deemed to have extended to or been in force in New Zealand at any time.

The date, 14th January, 1840, was that on which the Governor-in-Chief of New South Wales had proclaimed the extension of the boundaries of New South Wales to include New Zealand.

Although, in terms, this Act was wide enough to cover both statute and common law, it appears obvious from the preamble that it was intended to cover the statute law of England, leaving the common law to be governed by the common-law principle stated by Blackstone.

## English common law the basic law

Thus was set the pattern for the New Zealand legal system—a pattern which has been substantially followed to the present time. The consequence is that the English common law, save to the extent to which it has been repealed by New Zealand legislation, is the basic law of New Zealand today. An English barrister looking round the shelves of a New Zealand law library would find himself very much at home. The English Law Reports, Halsbury's Laws of England, standard English text-books such as Cheshire and Fifoot on the Law of Contract and Salmond on Torts, to say nothing of weightier tomes such as Jarman on Wills, occupy space which is many times greater than that occupied by the New Zealand Law

Reports (eighty volumes to date) and the handful of text-books especially written for New Zealand conditions, such as those relating to the law of real property. Significantly, too, the New Zealand Law Reports for 1960 show that in cases decided in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal and reported in that year, references to English decisions outnumbered references to New Zealand decisions by nearly three to one.

By an Imperial Act of 1852, the New Zealand Constitution Act, New Zealand was granted a Legislature (the General Assembly) with power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of New Zealand, provided that no such laws should be repugnant to the laws of England. The doubts raised by the last words—whether "laws of England" included English common law—were set at rest by the Colonial Laws Validity Act, 1865, which provided that Colonial legislation was not to be considered repugnant unless it was repugnant to Imperial legislation that extended to the colony—whether, it appears, it so extended either by express provision or by necessary intendment. But the number of Imperial statutes which did so extend were relatively few. To all intents and purposes the General Assembly had full power to legislate for the internal affairs of the country. Even this territorial restriction as well as the provision concerning repugnance to Imperial legislation have been swept away by the New Zealand Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1947—an Imperial statute—and the Statute of Westminster Adoption Act of the same year—a New Zealand statute.

In certain fields, the New Zealand General Assembly took full advantage of the almost plenary powers conferred on it and enacted legislation dealing with certain aspects of private law which, to a greater or lesser degree, overruled the relevant common-law principles. This was particularly so in relation to the law of real property.

## Social legislation

New Zealand has been described as a social laboratory and certain of its social legislation justifies this description. Under the Legitimation Act of 1894 a child born out of wedlock was, on the marriage of its parents and on registration of the child, deemed to have been legitimated from birth. But an illegitimate child could not be legitimated if at the time of the birth of the child there was any legal impediment to the marriage of the parents. These restrictions were removed by the Legitimation Act, 1939, and legitimation is now automatic on the marriage of the parents, irrespective of the fact that at the time of the birth either of the parents was married.

In 1900, New Zealand initiated legislation which has been followed in most British countries—though not in England until 1938—dealing with the rights of members of a deceased person's family to share his estate. The present law is contained in the Family Protection Act, 1955, which empowers a Supreme Court judge to make provision for certain members of a deceased person's family from the estate which the deceased leaves, if adequate provision has not been made for their maintenance and support.

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In passing, it may be mentioned that New Zealand was the first British country to give the vote to women. This it did in 1893.

One interesting statutory provision which is entirely a matter for the common law in England is to be found in s. 5 (j) of the Acts Interpretation Act, 1924. This subsection is as follows: "Every Act, and every provision or enactment thereof, shall be deemed remedial, whether its immediate purport is to direct the doing of anything Parliament deems to be for the public good, or to prevent or punish the doing of anything it deems contrary to the public good, and shall accordingly receive such fair, large, and liberal construction and interpretation as will best ensure the attainment of the object of the Act and of such provision or enactment according to its true intent, meaning, and spirit."

The subsection thus constitutes a complete code for the interpretation of statutes in New Zealand but few members of the profession, whether barristers or judges, seem to regard it in that light. Reference is made to it occasionally, but, for the most part, the common-law rules are invoked, as the frequent references to the resolutions in *Heydon's Case* (1584), 3 Co. Rep. 7a, testify.

By statute (the Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act, 1949), New Zealand gives a remedy, unknown in England, to a person who has done work under a promise by the employer that he will be rewarded in the employer's will when the employer dies with the promise unfulfilled.

#### Law reform

In so far as, in matters of civil law, the common law of England has been the subject of statutory amendment, New Zealand has followed in the steps of England, but at a respectful distance. The New Zealand Law Revision Committee is keenly alive to the necessity for New Zealand legislation being in line with that of England on matters of law reform and, in some instances, the New Zealand statute has followed the English Act almost verbatim. But delay—usually of two years or more—has occurred. First, because of pressure on Parliamentary time and secondly because the Committee, before making any recommendation for the adoption of an English statute, wishes to see how the statute operates and whether its promise appears likely to be fulfilled.

Thus it was that in 1936 the Law Reform Act of that year adopted most of the provisions of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1934, and the Law Reform

(Married Women and Tortfeasors) Act, 1935. In that Act the opportunity was taken of bringing up to date the law relating to compensation for deaths by accident, still contained in a more than a century-old statute in England. (That portion of the Act has since been replaced by the Deaths by Accidents Compensation Act, 1952.) The Frustrated Contracts Act, 1944, was based on similar legislation passed in England in 1943. The Crown Proceedings Act, 1950, and the Limitation Act, 1950, are faithful reflections of legislation enacted in England in 1947 and 1939 respectively.

The New Zealand Law Revision Committee was much interested in the Report of the Porter Committee on the Law of Defamation and in the adoption by England of the major recommendations of that committee in 1952. There followed, two years later, the Defamation Act, 1954, for which the English legislation was a pattern. In one important matter, however, New Zealand took an independent line. The statute in effect abolished the distinction between libel and slander. Section 4 of the Act provides that "in any action for defamation (whether libel or slander), it shall not be necessary to allege or prove special damage."

Another question on which New Zealand has diverged from England in a statutory amendment of the common law relates to injuries by dogs. In New Zealand a dog is not allowed his first bite. The Dogs Registration Act, 1955, provides that the owner of a dog is liable for any injury done by the dog. Consequently if a dog bites a human being there is no need for the plaintiff to prove *scienter*. Furthermore, a trespassing dog makes its owner liable for the consequences of the dog's trespass, as was held in *Chittenden v. Hale* [1933] N.Z.L.R. 836.

The liability for trespassing dogs in New Zealand is therefore very different from what it is in England. The well-known statement of Bankes, L.J., in *Buckle v. Holmes* [1926] 2 K.B. 125, concerning trespassing cats and dogs applies to cats but not to dogs. They, for some reason best known to the legislators, have almost been outlawed.

The student of the common law will find that the New Zealand settlers did indeed bring the common law with them. In the realms of contract and tort, New Zealand is still very much a servant of the common law. There has been more divergence in the law of property, as will be explained in a later article. Meantime, the English lawyer may well be surprised to find that the rule against perpetuities in all its vigour and with all its niceties still holds sway in New Zealand.

#### ESTATE DUTY CONCESSION: RELEASE OF LIFE INTEREST

The following announcement has been made by the Inland Revenue: "Where property became liable to estate duty under s. 43 of the Finance Act, 1940, by reason of the disposition or determination of an interest limited to cease on the deceased's death, and the settlement under which that interest subsisted (not being a settlement made directly or indirectly by the deceased) came to an end before his death as regards the property in question, the property was formerly regarded as 'settled property' for the purpose of s. 33 (1) of the Finance Act, 1954. Following the recent decision in *Dunn v. Inland Revenue Commissioners* [1961] 2 All E.R. 275, the practice has been reviewed, and the property is now treated in these circumstances, by concession, as settled or not settled, whichever is in the interest of the taxpayer. (Section 33 (1) of the Finance Act, 1954, gives certain reliefs from the aggregation of property for the purpose of determining the rate of duty.)"

#### RECRUITMENT OF SOLICITORS

An article in a recent issue of the *Local Government Chronicle* disclosed that most local authorities are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit young assistant solicitors. The problem is being considered by The Law Society, the Society of Town Clerks and the salaries and wages sub-committee of the Association of Municipal Corporations. A circular letter on the subject has been sent out to local authorities.

#### LAW SOCIETY LUNCHEON

The President of The Law Society, Mr. Arthur J. Driver, gave a luncheon party on 23rd October, at 60 Carey Street, London, W.C.2. The guests were: The Danish Ambassador, Mr. Hans Hækkerup, Mr. Vilhelm Boas, Mr. Erik Broger, Mr. Ivar Boye, Mr. Axel Hye-Knudsen, Mr. Henry B. Lawson, Mr. J. K. D. Roberts and Sir Thomas Lund.

## OFFENCES CONTRA BONOS MORES—II

An analogy was drawn in *Shaw v. Director of Public Prosecutions* [1961] 2 W.L.R. 897; p. 421, *ante*, and adopted by many of the law lords, with the judges' refusal in the civil courts to enforce a contract which they regard as offensive to one of the heads of public policy which their predecessors have created, even though there is no element of criminality about the contract.

Public policy, however, has been judicially described as "a very unruly horse" for a lawyer to ride and it is today recognised that no new head of public policy can now be created. The duty of the court has been said to be "to expound, and not to expand, such policy" (per Lord Thankerton in *Fender v. St. John-Mildmay* [1938] A.C.1, at p. 23).

In *Shaw's* case, Viscount Simonds said in effect that the court was here merely expounding that broad head of public policy known as conspiracy to corrupt public morals and merely applying it by analogy to "acts well calculated to corrupt public morals" ([1961] 2 W.L.R., at p. 917).

### *Nulla poena sine lege*

Viscount Simonds himself stressed the need for certainty in the criminal law so that every potential offender shall know in advance whether or not he is in danger of criminal sanctions, and emphasized that he was no advocate of the right of the judges to create new criminal offences (p. 916).

With great respect, however, it is possible to wonder whether so widely defined an offence as conspiracy to corrupt public morals does in fact have the requisite degree of certainty, or is it in danger of infringing the fundamental principle of *nulla poena sine lege*?

Could it, for example (to adopt the argument of *Shaw's* counsel reported in *The Times* of 23rd March, 1961), be predicted with certainty in advance whether or not the offence might cover brewers' advertisements, those who opposed Apartheid or were in favour of it, or those who advocated reform of the abortion law?

"Let it be supposed that at some future, perhaps early, date homosexual practices between adult consenting males are no longer a crime. Would it not be an offence if, even without obscenity, such practices were publicly advocated and encouraged by pamphlet and advertisement? Or must we wait until Parliament finds time to deal with such conduct? I say, my lords, that if the common law is powerless in such an event, then we should no longer do her reverence. But I say that her hand is still powerful and that it is for Her Majesty's judges to play the part which Lord Mansfield pointed out to them"

(per Viscount Simonds at p. 918).

Lord Reid, however, denied the existence of a crime of conspiracy to corrupt public morals. Nevertheless he thought *Shaw* might well have been convicted by a properly directed jury for the indictable offence of publicly outraging public decency because of the invitation in the *Ladies' Directory* to indulge in sexual perversions, the offence being constituted, according to Lord Reid, whether or not there was a conspiracy.

### Certainty and punishment

With regard to the need for certainty in the criminal law, it is noteworthy that *Shaw* himself prior to publication of the *Ladies' Directory* showed an issue of the booklet to a police officer at Scotland Yard and asked him if it would be all right to publish it; apparently he had arranged that the Director of Public Prosecutions should see a copy. But of

course it is not the function of the potential prosecutor to give an authoritative ruling on whether or not an act is criminal.

Even if there is an element of uncertainty in a crime such as this, perhaps the practical hardship is mitigated by the fact that the court may possibly sentence the offender only to a term of imprisonment concurrent with terms imposed on other counts (as happened in *Shaw's* case). In some foreign jurisdictions, the court is given power in such a case to acquit the first person charged while indicating that persons guilty of such conduct in the future will be convicted.

While it is true that authority can be found in many cases for the proposition advanced by the majority of the law lords in *Shaw's* case, it is also possible to find authority to the opposite effect. The statement that "this is not a court of morals" has been heard from time to time.

In *R. v. Green and Bates* (1862), 3 F. & F. 274, Martin, B., speaking of the accused's conduct in seducing away a girl of under sixteen not known to be in her father's possession, said (at pp. 274-5):—

"The prisoners, no doubt, had done a very immoral act, but the question was whether they had committed an illegal act. The criminal law ought not to be strained to meet a case which did not come within it. The act of the prisoners was scandalous but it was not any legal offence."

In a celebrated judgment in *R. v. Price* (1884), 12 Q.B.D. 247, Stephen, J., refusing to treat as criminal the burning of a corpse, despite the offensiveness of the act to many religious sentiments at that date, stressed (at pp. 255-6) the difference between an immoral act contrary to weighty sections of public opinion and a criminal act.

In *R. v. Read* (1708), Fort. 98, Powell, J., speaking of an alleged obscene libel, said:—

"There is no law to punish it. I wish there were but we cannot make law; it indeed tends to the corruption of good manners but that is not sufficient for us to punish."

### Christianity and the law

It is fair to add that *R. v. Read* was disapproved in *R. v. Curl* (1727), 2 Str. 788, another obscene libel case cited by the House of Lords in *Shaw's* case in support of their claim to a "twentieth-century superintendence." In *R. v. Curl*, however, one finds that the kind of argument that prevailed on the court was as follows:—

"My lord, Chief Justice Hale used to say, Christianity is part of the law, and why not morality, too? I do not insist that every immoral act is indictable, such as telling a lie or the like; but if it is destructive of morality in general, if it does or may affect all the King's subjects, it is then an offence of a public nature."

(per the Attorney-General *arguendo*).

The difficulty about this kind of reasoning today is first that it may be left to a jury to decide how immoral an act must be to be punishable criminally and, admirable though a jury may be as an arbiter of fact, its judgment on a moral point may be open to question. Secondly, from the point of view of judicial precedent, many of the old cases, such as *R. v. Curl*, are inextricably bound up with the assertion that rules of Christian behaviour were *ipso facto* criminal laws of England. But in *Bowman v. Secular Society, Ltd.* [1917] A.C. 406, the House of Lords decisively repudiated this idea, holding that a secular society with anti-religious objects was incorporated for a lawful purpose and could properly be left





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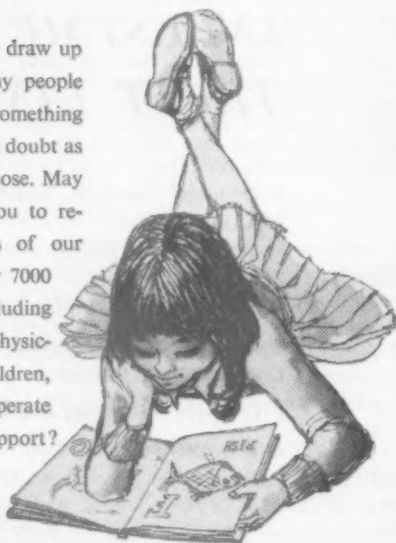
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a legacy. Indeed, as early as 1702, it had been held that, for example, adultery *simpliciter* was not the subject of indictment—*Rigault v. Gallizard* (1702), Holt 50.

This is not to say that the courts show, or need show, no respect for Christianity, but it is to the advantage of neither Christianity nor the criminal law to say that their spheres are coincident. *Bowman v. Secular Society* itself recognises, for example, that scurrility or profanity in propagating anti-Christian doctrines would be a criminal offence.

So far, in considering the first count, we have discussed only the question of whether an injury to public morals is an offence, without considering the additional element of conspiracy, since in *Shaw's* case the Court of Criminal Appeal and most of the law lords held that an injury to public morals would be indictable, even if done by one person only.

However, they reinforced their views by relying on the additional fact that Shaw had conspired (i.e., simply, agreed) with others to corrupt public morals. Lord Tucker, for example, says (at p. 930):—

"It has for long been accepted that there are some conspiracies which are criminal although the acts agreed to be done are not *per se* so tortious or criminal if done by individuals. Such conspiracies form a third class in addition to the well known and more clearly defined conspiracies to do acts which are unlawful in the sense of criminal or tortious, or to do lawful acts by unlawful means. Assuming that the corruption of public morals by the acts of an individual may not be criminal or tortious, does it follow that a conspiracy by two or more persons to this end is not indictable?"

Lord Tucker concludes that conspiracy may make criminal what was not criminal before.

#### What is the taint?

What, then, is this mysterious element which renders such a conspiracy criminal? What is the taint that affects conspirators but not an individual offender? Consider an early statement in the *Journeyman Tailors' case* (1721), 8 Mod. 10:—

"A conspiracy of any kind is illegal, although the matter about which they conspired might have been lawful for them, or any of them, to do if they had not conspired to do it, as appears in the case of *The Tubwomen v. The Brewers of London*."

One's dismay at realising that the literal effect of this dictum is to render criminal every agreement however innocuous is tempered by the fact that apparently no trace

has been found in the authorities of the case of *The Tubwomen v. The Brewers of London*! (See Professor Sayre, "Criminal Conspiracy" (1921), *Harvard Law Review* 393, at p. 403.)

Clearly, however, every agreement is not *ipso facto* an indictable offence and, in fact, the taint that renders a conspiracy indictable has been variously described as a conspiracy to commit a public mischief (see, e.g., *R. v. Brailsford* [1905] 2 K.B. 730, and *R. v. Newland* [1954] 1 Q.B. 158) and a conspiracy "to do certain other acts which (unlike all those hitherto mentioned) are not breaches of the law at all, but which nevertheless are outrageously immoral or else are in some way extremely injurious to the public" (Kenny's "Outlines of Criminal Law", 17th ed., p. 393—adopted by Lords Tucker and Morris in *Shaw's* case at pp. 931 and 938).

With great respect, the same difficulties arise in interpreting this definition of the taint as occur in considering whether injury to public morals, if done by an individual, is sufficiently grave to be indictable. In 1921, Professor Sayre was moved to say: "A doctrine so vague in its outlines and uncertain in its foundation as criminal conspiracy lends no strength or glory to the law; it is a veritable quicksand of shifting opinion and ill-considered thought" (op. cit., p. 393), but now in 1961 there is no doubt that the doctrine is here to stay and is still available to the judges to punish conspirators when they feel that the oppressive force of numbers has tipped the balance of the criminal scales.

#### Comparison with tort

A conspiracy to commit a tort may be a crime, though the tort itself is not a crime, for example, a conspiracy to commit the tort of deceit but possibly not to commit the tort of peaceable trespass (cf. *R. v. Turner* (1811), 13 East 228, and *R. v. Rowlands* (1851), 17 Q.B. 671).

In addition, in the law of tort itself there has been a parallel development, the House of Lords having confirmed in *Crofter Hand Woven Harris Tweed Co. v. Veitch* [1942] A.C. 435, that if several persons conspire with the predominating motive of injuring the plaintiff, they are all liable to him in tort, though if done by an individual their conduct would not have been tortious. However, an overt act is necessary, unlike criminal conspiracy, since damage is an essential of the tort (*ibid.*).

(To be concluded)

M. J. G.

### "THE SOLICITORS' JOURNAL," 2nd NOVEMBER, 1861

IN its early days THE SOLICITORS' JOURNAL had a feud with the *Law Times*. On 2nd November, 1861, it wrote that the *Law Times* "used to contain some amusing articles, intended for the special benefit of those who wanted to become 'advocates,' and still more recently, has been trying to teach unfortunate law-students whose manners have been neglected, the importance of polite enunciation, and the misfortune of speaking through their nose; together with much more of such like instructions . . . The same schoolmaster is now abroad amongst those unhappy writing clerks who fain would scramble over the barrier which an examination throws up between them and the dignity of the shorter robe. Last week this accomplished instructor . . . addresses these aspirants for professional rank, in language calculated to make a deep impression, if not upon their minds, certainly upon the minds of all who know something more of the Latin grammar from which he quotes than the scraps of Latin which it contains. After informing his readers that it is for the interest of the community that the duties of solicitors should be performed by 'well educated gentlemen . . . giving to the

world the pledge of honour, for which social position is the best security,' this 'well educated gentleman' and ambitious instructor in all the . . . arts of composition thus betrays his own want of acquaintance with one of the . . . plainest rules of . . . grammar . . . 'A writing clerk,' he says, 'who should . . . educate himself in the "*ingenuas artes*," which the Latin grammar tells us "*emollit mores*," and who had held the social status assigned to a solicitor, would be welcomed . . . as cordially as if he had been crammed at college.' Now, although . . . we are rather shy of giving our friends, the writing clerks, any advice . . . we can hardly help advising such of them as have not yet learned the Latin grammar . . . to occupy themselves more with the rules . . . than with those bits of Latin which are given by way of examples . . . Legal maxims in the Latin tongue . . . seldom require to be taken to pieces in a conversational kind of way; but anyone who has got a few of those other aphorisms in his head and nothing else of the language . . . may be unable to see that in attempting to show his knowledge he only betrays . . . ignorance . . ."



## PRACTICAL ESTATE DUTY—V

### MISCELLANEOUS RELIEFS AND REDUCTIONS

It is a remarkable fact that from 1954 onwards nearly all the numerous changes in estate duty law have been in favour of the taxpayer and we prove ourselves ungrateful if we do not keep completely up to date. One change not yet mentioned is the vast extension of quick succession relief by s. 30 of the Finance Act, 1958.

#### The regular customer

Before 1958 quick succession relief only applied to land or businesses, and the maximum relief was a 50 per cent. reduction in the rate of duty payable on the second death. In a sense, assets of these types are the most hardly hit by quick successions because of the difficulties of realisation, but the distinction was not altogether justified and s. 30 extends the relief to property of all sorts. A new maximum relief of 75 per cent. has also been introduced for cases where the two deaths occur within three months. After this, the relief is on a sliding scale and varies from 50 per cent. to 10 per cent. according to whether the earlier death took place within one, two, three, four or five years of the later death. These percentages are reductions in the amount of duty payable on the second death, instead of in the rate, and the new scheme applies on a second death after April, 1958, even if the earlier death were before that date.

The relief only applies if the same property is dutiable twice and in many cases it is difficult to say whether the property is the same or not. Schedule VIII to the 1958 Act contains a number of obscure rules intended to throw light on this problem.

#### Commorientes

The Finance Act, 1958, also allows double duty to be avoided entirely in two particular cases. By s. 29 (1), if two people have died in circumstances rendering it uncertain which of them survived, the property chargeable with duty on each death has to be ascertained as if they had died at the same instant. The effect of this is to displace, for estate duty, the normal presumption under the Law of Property Act, 1925, that the younger survived the elder, a presumption which in many cases, particularly of husband and wife, used to mean that the property notionally passed through both estates and was liable to duty on each death. The subsection only applies where the order of death is *uncertain*, and it is not a substitute for the familiar provision in a will that the beneficiary shall not take unless he survives the testator by at least a month, but if the will does not contain this provision, and the beneficiary and testator are killed in the same accident, the circumstances should be examined to see if the subsection allows any duty to be saved.

Subsection (2) of s. 29 deals with another case where double duty used to be payable. By s. 33 of the Wills Act, 1837, a gift to a child does not lapse on the death of the child in the testator's lifetime, but takes effect as if the child had died immediately after the testator. It had been held as long ago as 1901 that this meant the subject-matter of the gift bearing duty in respect of the death of both child and testator, and draftsmen of wills had to be careful to see that the Wills Act was not allowed to operate. After fifty-seven years Parliament relieved them of this burden, and property is no longer deemed to pass for estate duty merely because the Wills Act saves a gift from lapse.

#### Aggregation

With the steeply progressive rates of estate duty any exception to the principle of aggregation is one to be eagerly grasped. Section 33 of the Finance Act, 1954, introduced an entirely new exception in the case of free estate not exceeding £10,000 in net value, with marginal relief for amounts slightly above that figure. The object of this reform was to prevent a small free estate of a tenant for life, often the only fund out of which provision could be made for his younger children or his widow, from being denuded by the high rate of duty attracted by the passing of a large settled estate in which these beneficiaries were probably not interested. The free estate, within the limits mentioned, is now treated as an estate by itself, and it makes no difference how many or how large are the settled estates passing on the death.

We have referred to the free estate, but the matter is not quite so simple as that. What the Act does is to distinguish "settled property" from "other property," and for this purpose settled property does not include anything settled by the deceased or anything of which he has been competent to dispose. One therefore has to include in the "other property" not only the free estate strictly so called, but also such items as dutiable gifts *inter vivos* made by the deceased, whether outright or by way of settlement. The recent decision in *Dunn v. Inland Revenue Commissioners* [1961] 2 W.L.R. 769; p. 282, *ante*, shows that advances made from the settled funds to the children of the tenant for life, which become liable to duty under s. 43 of the Finance Act, 1940, because made within five years of the tenant for life's death, are not settled property within the meaning of the 1954 Act. The result is that the amount of the advances is included in the "other property" and, if the total is within the £10,000 limit, escapes aggregation with the parent fund, however shortly before the life tenant's death the advances may have been made.

#### The windfall

An executor who has reason to feel satisfied with the value of any particular asset agreed for the purposes of duty frequently asks what will be the result if he sells the property and happens to obtain a price higher than the valuation. The usual reply is that he should wait two years from the date of death, but in fact there is no magic in the period and it has no statutory authority. The position is that any sale in the open market may raise a presumption as to the value of the asset at the date of death, and the nearer the sale is to the death the stronger the presumption. On the other hand it is open either to the executors or the Revenue to show that conditions have changed, and that an increase or diminution in the value is accounted for by these changes. For instance, a piece of land which had no apparent development possibilities at the date of death may be sold a few months later at a high price because the planning authority has accepted a change in policy for the area, and in such a case expert evidence should be brought to show that the original probate valuation is still perfectly correct for the purpose of paying duty.

The two-year period was probably adopted by analogy to s. 14 of the Finance Act, 1907, under which a certificate of discharge cannot normally be applied for until two years

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after the death; its practical importance is that, on a sale within the period at an increased value, the Estate Duty Office will contend that the onus is on the executors to show a change of circumstances accounting for the increase, while after the two years the onus of proof will be the other way round.

### Reversions

In connection with estate duty a reversionary interest is known as an interest in expectancy, and payment of the duty on it can be made either with the duty on the rest of the estate or when the interest falls in. It is very often advisable to elect for immediate payment and if this is done the question arises of valuing the reversion. It is believed that some solicitors still value reversions by calculating what the life tenancy is worth under Table I of the Succession Duty Act, 1853, and deducting this from the total value of the settled fund. In fact this is a procedure which should never be used because it usually throws up too high a figure for the reversion. Apart from the fact that the tables are

completely out of date, this is a context in which two and two do not always make four, and it cannot be too strongly stressed that expert advice should always be obtained, either from an actuary or a dealer in reversions, before a figure is submitted to the Estate Duty Office. It is the market value on which duty has to be paid, and only an expert can assess all the factors which may discourage a hypothetical purchaser from paying the apparent value of a reversionary interest.

### Relieving the gloom

As a tailpiece to this lugubrious series we draw attention to a published Estate Duty Office concession which is not as well known as it might be. A reasonable amount for mourning for the family and servants is allowed as part of the funeral expenses, and in the case of large estates a tactful inquiry at the right time about the amount spent on mourning may result in a saving of duty—and a staff of servants warmly, if soberly, clad for many months to come.

(Concluded)

PHILIP LAWTON.

## Landlord and Tenant Notebook

### COVENANT TO USE FOR TWO PURPOSES

THE point decided in *Packaging Centre, Ltd. v. Poland Street Estate, Ltd.* (1961), 178 E.G. 189, was, I believe, a novel one. We are familiar with the numerous authorities in which the courts have been asked to prevent a covenantor from carrying on a business said to be within the scope of a restrictive covenant, the question being what is covered by such expressions as "butcher," "tobacconist," "motor garage," etc. They can, incidentally, be usefully referred to by anyone who cares to answer a client's complaint that the law and the law courts are out of touch with life: my own favourite would be *Stuart v. Diplock* (1889), 43 Ch. D. 343 (C.A.) (though it concerned a landlord's covenant affecting adjoining premises), in which the Court of Appeal, with ruthless logic, exposed the fallacy in Kekewich, J.'s reasoning amounting to: "All ladies' outfitters sell combinations; the defendants sell combinations; therefore the defendants are ladies' outfitters."

The last-mentioned case dealt with the problem of overlapping; in *Packaging Centre, Ltd. v. Poland Street Estate, Ltd.*, one might call the phenomenon complained of "underlapping." The defendants held a lease of premises in which they had covenanted to use those premises "for the purposes of offices and showrooms of a packaging centre only." The lease also contained the usual restriction on alienation without consent. They proposed to underlet to a concern which would use the premises for the purposes or purpose of offices only. The plaintiffs refused the necessary consent. At first instance, the county court judge held that this refusal was unreasonable. The Court of Appeal allowed the plaintiffs' appeal.

The decisive argument was, to put it briefly, that the conjunction "and" was used conjunctively, not disjunctively; but it may be that all the arguments advanced by the plaintiffs affected this point.

### Effect on reversion

Thus they urged that the granting of the consent would ultimately occasion them loss, there being no longer any

showroom goodwill attached to the premises. A landlord is, of course, entitled to consider what effect a proposed assignment or subletting will have on the value of his property: *Re Town Investments, Ltd., Underlease; McLaughlin v. Town Investments, Ltd.* [1954] Ch. 301; and there is authority for the proposition that an objection on the mere ground that the proposed user differs from that for which the property was let is not unreasonable: *Harrison, Ainslie & Co. v. Barrow-in-Furness Corporation* (1891), 39 W.R. 250, in which lessees of an iron furnace proposed to assign to assignees who agreed (in effect) not to use the premises as such and it was held that the intended assignees were not "a person of responsibility and respectability."

The point may have contributed to the decision whether the "and" was conjunctive or disjunctive, but once an inevitable breach was established there would be no need to prove apprehended depreciation. It may be observed that Pt. II of the Landlord and Tenant Act, 1954, excludes from its scope tenants who carry on a business in breach of a prohibition "however expressed" of use for business purposes, but this "does not include a prohibition of use for the purposes of a specified business, or of use for purposes of any but a specified business . . .": s. 23 (4).

### Use of plural

It was also argued that the use of the plural—for the purposes of—showed that what was intended was use for the two purposes. The Court of Appeal did not agree, pointing out that "for the purposes of" was often used in connection with one activity. Indeed, the above-mentioned s. 23 (4) of the Landlord and Tenant Act, 1954, so uses it.

### "And"

Disputes about whether "and" is to be interpreted conjunctively or disjunctively have been a feature of the law for centuries. Plenty of examples can be found of "and" being read as "or" and "or" being read as "and." But in *Mersey Docks and Harbour Board v. Henderson Brothers*

(1888), 13 App. Cas. 595, Lord Halsbury registered something like a protest: "I know of no authority for such a proceeding unless the context makes the necessary meaning of 'or' and 'and,' as in some instances it does . . . It may indeed be doubted whether some of the cases of turning 'or' into 'and' and vice versa have not gone to the extreme limit of interpretation . . ."

It seems remarkable that the question has not arisen before in connection with covenants restricting user to specified businesses. We so often find the word "and" in the descriptions used. The defendants in *Stuart v. Diplock*, *supra*, called themselves "fancy drapers and hosiers." We have "newsagents, confectioners and tobacconists," "builders and decorators," and "builders and undertakers." But, as far as the reports are concerned, no newsagent,

etc., has been held to infringe a covenant by ceasing to sell tobacco, no builder and decorator has been held to be under a duty to decorate, and no builder and undertaker has been held to have undertaken to conduct funerals.

While the Court of Appeal held, in *Packaging Centre, Ltd. v. Poland Street Estate, Ltd.*, that the "and" was conjunctive, this does not, I submit, warrant the proposition that there can be no cases in which the context would not make it necessary to interpret that word as used disjunctively. If any reader occupies offices under a lease obliging him to use them for the purposes of a solicitor and commissioner for oaths, I doubt whether he would not be entitled to assign or sublet to a solicitor whom the Lord Chancellor had not commissioned to administer oaths.

R. B.

## HERE AND THERE

### STRANGERS WITH US

THE problem of the immigrant workman has many sides to it. The one uppermost in the minds of many of the inhabitants of this island is (as a charming and witty Nigerian girl once put it to me) that a few generations hence all the English will have black faces and talk with Irish accents. Then there is the problem of the negro lightheartedness and levity running counter to the law of gravity in the British temperament, especially among the more seriously conformist of the beneficiaries of the new Affluent State. The immigrants' approach to work is also different. The English workman is accomplished alike in the techniques of production and the techniques of the strike, inured to an industrial background with all its implications, so that it has become to him more "natural" than nature itself, hills and fields and the sea, whereas the Irishman or the West Indian walks into our scientific Wonderland with something of the naïve, simple straightforwardness of Alice, half admiration and half impatient bewilderment. The causes and effects which were familiar to either of them in their own islands, brilliant tropical or rain-washed emerald, have lost their native relevance, and their relations with inanimate objects must be re-thought, no less than their relations with the equally incomprehensible human creatures to whose customs they must adjust their way of life.

### HEROIC STRIKES

THE individualism of the instinctive Irish approach to a technical problem was interestingly illustrated in a case which recently engaged the Court of Appeal. A building labourer, who had not long abandoned life on an Irish farm, was instructed by his employers to saw off one end of a steel pipe with a hacksaw. After some five minutes of monotonous effort had failed to sever it, the good practical fellow, seeing no sense in a further waste of energy, took a 14 lb. sledgehammer to it, the largest he could find, and dealt the pipe ten resounding blows worthy of Niall of the Nine Hostages, or Brian Boru or any of the legendary heroes of Ireland's heroic age. The effect was, indeed, as startling as any of the mythological misfortunes which befell the heroes of old. As if he had joined battle with a dragon, he was suddenly enveloped in a great cloud of scalding steam. Since the more gradual method of the hacksaw was apparently a perfectly safe method of severing the pipe and the notion of smashing the valve with a sledge-

hammer is entirely novel in the building trade in England, no one had thought of telling the Irishman that there was steam in the pipe. Mr. Justice Paull awarded him damages for the injuries which he had sustained and his employers appealed to the Court of Appeal, contending that the plaintiff's startlingly untechnical approach to his task was something which they could not possibly have foreseen.

### THE IRISH WAY

THE presence of Lord Justice Harman in the Court of Appeal was a guarantee that the Irish aspects of the case would not be swamped by English incomprehension. When counsel for the appellants said that the judge had attached importance to the fact that the plaintiff was an Irish farm labourer, the lord justice protested that the Irish are not less intelligent than the English. Counsel agreed that the plaintiff was a man of intelligence and understanding and added that, after all, English is one of the languages spoken in Ireland, but Lord Justice Ormerod suggested that certain words may have different meanings in Ireland just as they have in America, whereupon Lord Justice Harman remarked that he did not know that they spoke English in America. As to the actual method adopted by the plaintiff in his approach to the problem of the pipe, Lord Justice Harman seemed to suggest that it was not very far from amounting to an old Irish custom. "If an Irishman mends his motor car," he said, "he always hits it with a hammer. Every Irish garage has a good selection of hammers. It does wonders, I assure you." The Irish attitude towards the internal combustion engine is anything but technological. I once knew an Irishman who mended a leaking radiator on a lonely country road with a poached egg. He got it from a cottage, and the hot water did the rest. Similarly, there was the Irish engine driver who repaired a broken-down locomotive with a strand of wire cut from a track-side fence. But Ireland is incurably Irish, and what works there does not necessarily work here. The Court of Appeal found for the employers. As Lord Justice Harman said, there was madness in the plaintiff's method and it could not have been foreseen that he would use a sledgehammer when told to use a hacksaw—not in England anyhow. All the same, in Ireland you must be prepared for a more imaginative and practical approach than here. To an Englishman a hot water pipe is just a hot water pipe. Not so in Ireland. I know a tiny island off her Atlantic coast where a cargo ship

went on the rocks about a year ago. In her engine room there were enormous lengths of pipes in the shape of a succession of elongated U's. What use are pipes on an island without running water? Oh, yes, they have a use, especially on a

treeless island where no wood grows. All over the place great sections of it are now installed as gates, and very decorative and effective they are.

RICHARD ROE.

## IN WESTMINSTER AND WHITEHALL

### ROYAL ASSENT

The following Bill received the Royal Assent on 24th October:—  
**Housing.**

### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

- Companies (Fees)** (Scotland) Regulations, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1974.) 6d.  
**Companies (Forms)** (Amendment No. 2) Order, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1966.) 1s. 3d.  
**County of the North Riding of Yorkshire** (Electoral Divisions) Order, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 2008.) 6d.  
**Covent Garden Market** (Licences) Regulations, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 2019.) 7d.  
**Covent Garden Market Authority** (Date of Constitution) Order, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 2018.) 6d.  
**Doncaster By-Pass** (Connecting Roads) Special Roads Scheme, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1991.) 6d.  
**London-Brighton Trunk Road** (Bolney Crossways Diversion) Order, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1961.) 6d.  
**London Traffic** (40 m.p.h. Speed Limit) (No. 13) Regulations, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1969.) 6d.  
**London Traffic** (Prohibition of Waiting) (Datchet) Regulation, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1985.) 6d.  
**London Traffic** (Weight Restriction) (Kingston-upon-Thames) Regulations, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1986.) 6d.  
**London Traffic** (Weight Restriction) (Leatherhead) Regulations, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1987.) 6d.  
**Narberth Rural Water** Order, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1975.) 7d.  
**Parking Places** (City of London) (No. 1, 1961) (Amendment) Order, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1952.) 7d.  
**Parking Places** (St. Marylebone) (No. 1, 1959) (Amendment No. 5) Order, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1962.) 8d.  
**Parking Places** (St. Marylebone) (No. 1, 1960) (Amendment) Order, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1963.) 11d.

**Police Federation Act, 1961** (Commencement No. 1) Order, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1976 (C.17).) 6d.

**Pontefract, Goole and Selby Water Board** Order, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1983.) 1s. 9d.

### Stopping up of Highways Orders, 1961:—

- County of Flint** (No. 2). (S.I. 1961 No. 1993.) 6d.  
**County of Hertford** (No. 10). (S.I. 1961 No. 1992.) 6d.  
**County of Lincoln, Parts of Kesteven** (No. 2). (S.I. 1961 No. 1978.) 6d.  
**London** (No. 38). (S.I. 1961 No. 1968.) 6d.  
**County of Northampton** (No. 6). (S.I. 1961 No. 1959.) 6d.  
**County of Nottingham** (No. 3). (S.I. 1961 No. 1960.) 6d.  
**County of Nottingham** (No. 4). (S.I. 1961 No. 1957.) 6d.  
**City and County Borough of Plymouth** (No. 1). (S.I. 1961 No. 1958.) 6d.  
**County of Somerset** (No. 5). (S.I. 1961 No. 1994.) 6d.  
**County of Surrey** (No. 9). (S.I. 1961 No. 1967.) 6d.  
**West Riding of Yorkshire** (Advance Payments for Street Works) Order, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1998.) 6d.  
**Worcester-Wolverhampton-South of Stafford Trunk Road** (Hawford Diversion) Order, 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1977.) 6d.

### SELECTED APPOINTED DAYS

#### October

27th **Companies** (Floating Charges) (Scotland) Act, 1961.

#### November

- 1st **Food Hygiene** (General) Regulations, 1960 (S.I. 1960 No. 1601), in relation to ships.  
**Licensing Act, 1961**, ss. 1-4, 5 (7), 7 (1)-(3), (5)-(7), 8 (2)-(9), 10-24, 37 (1)-(3), (6), (7), 38, Schedules I, IV, IX, Pt. I, Pt. II (in part).  
**Licensing** (Metropolitan Special Hours Area) Order 1961. (S.I. 1961 No. 1671.)  
**Police Federation Act, 1961.**

## CORRESPONDENCE

*[The views expressed by our correspondents are not necessarily those of "The Solicitors' Journal"]*

### Less than Little

Sir,—Richard Roe's entertaining articles are as much enjoyed by those who read them north of the border as they are in England and for that reason I hope he will not mind if I draw attention to an inaccuracy which appeared in his notes in your issue of 13th October. In reference to the difficulties which have come to a head in connection with the Poor Roll system in Scotland, he states that "there is a general feeling that the

Poor Roll remuneration has been too low for too long." The fact, which is perhaps not generally realised, is that counsel and solicitors appearing for poor persons in criminal causes in Scotland receive no fees for their services. In these matters our brethren south of the border seem to arrange their affairs much better!

R. B. LAURIE,  
Secretary,

Edinburgh, 1.

The Law Society of Scotland.

### Obituary

Mr. REGINALD HUBERT VICTOR CAVE, solicitor, of Bristol, died on 19th October, aged 64. He was admitted in 1924.

Mr. CHARLES HOULDSWORTH KENWORTHY, retired solicitor, of Ealing, died on 25th October, aged 69. He was admitted in 1921.

Mr. ARTHUR BERTRAM PLUMMER, solicitor, of Leicester, died on 24th October, aged 83. He was admitted in 1901.

Mr. HENRY CHARLES JOHN RUSSELL SMITH, solicitor, of Hove, formerly of Berkhamstead and Watford, died on 21st October, aged 80. He was admitted in 1904.

Dr. ALFRED EDWARD WESTERN, retired solicitor, of London, W.C.2, and an early pioneer of legal aid, died on 11th October, aged 88. He was admitted in 1900.



## REVIEWS

**MacGillivray on Insurance Law.** Relating to all risks other than marine. Fifth Edition. Two Volumes. By DENIS BROWNE, M.A., of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law. pp. lxxx, viii, 2,566 and (Index) 49. 1961. London: Sweet & Maxwell, Ltd. £12 12s. net.

This, the fifth, is the first edition of this well known leading work on insurance law not to have Mr. MacGillivray's name on the title page as author. The present editor, Mr. Denis Browne, who has been associated as co-author with all the previous editions save the original one of 1912, tells us in a preface, however, that a substantial number of notes of Mr. MacGillivray are incorporated in this edition.

Since the previous edition was published in 1953 new legislation has been enacted which affected the contents of this work, principally the Insurance Companies Act, 1958, although note has also been taken of such statutes as the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1953, the Road Traffic Act, 1960, the Friendly Societies Act, 1955, the Mental Health Act, 1959, and the Finance Act, 1959. The Suicide Act, 1961, is dealt with in the preface, where a warning is given that it affects the substance of certain paragraphs of the book.

This edition is greatly improved by its division into two volumes; the work will be easier to handle as a result. Each volume includes the index, which is helpful; reference is made to paragraph numbers, not page numbers, and a line to this effect at the beginning of the index would be appropriate. In general the first volume deals with insurance companies and general principles applicable to all contracts of insurance, and the second volume with the particular types of insurance, plus chapters on insurance against third-party risks, claims for premiums and stamp duties.

The thorough coverage of English insurance law which readers have come to expect of "MacGillivray" is again provided, and is supplemented in this edition by references to some 200 American decisions the selection of which must have been a formidable task. With modern English authorities relatively scarce—a big proportion of cases cited date before this century—illustrations provided by overseas decisions are helpful, though it is debatable how far this process should be extended. We think that one candidate for inclusion in the next edition should be *Tan Kwang Chin v. Public Prosecutor* (1959), 25 *Malayan Law Journal* 252 (referred to at 104 Sol. J. 38), a decision of the High Court of the State of Kedah which in effect held that a learner driver with an expired provisional driving licence was covered by an insurance policy authorising any person who had been licensed to drive to do so with the insured's permission.

The editor may also like to consider adding to the section on Insurable Interest in Lives a statement as to the interest necessary to effect an insurance on the life of the Sovereign. Paragraph 2019 dealing with policies covering accidental loss or damage to property seems unduly short; for example, some householders' policies exclude cover on landlord's fixtures and a description of these for purposes of insurance law would be helpful. On a minor point of style, we much prefer reference to the Fires Prevention (Metropolis) Act, 1774, in the form of "the 1774 Act," as given in paras. 1978/9, to "14 Geo. 3, c. 78," as in paras. 1832, 1836 and 1838.

**The Annual Practice, 1962.** Volume 1 (with supplement to volume 2). By A. S. DIAMOND, LL.D., Master of the Supreme Court, Queen's Bench Division, I. H. JACOBS, LL.B., Master of the Supreme Court, Queen's Bench Division, PAUL ADAMS T.D., Chief Master of the Supreme Court Taxing Office, and J. S. NEAVE, LL.B., Master of the Supreme Court, Chancery Division, assisted by W. H. REDMAN, M.B.E., Masters' Secretary. pp. cccxix, 2600 and (with Index) 304. 1961. London: Sweet & Maxwell, Ltd.; Stevens & Sons, Ltd.; Butterworth & Co. (Publishers), Ltd. £5 17s. 6d. net. Volumes 1 and 2 together, £7 net.

The main differences in this edition of the Annual Practice have been caused by the coming into force of the Mental Health Act, 1959, and the Administration of Justice Act, 1960, and by what the editors call "the usual modern spate of new Rules," including the Rules of the Supreme Court (Nos. 2 to 5), 1960, and (No. 1), 1961, the Court of Protection Rules, 1960, the Bills of Sale (Local Registration) Rules, 1960, the Supreme Court

Fees (Amendment) Orders, 1960 and 1961, and the Supreme Court Funds (No. 2) Rules, 1960. This is the 79th annual edition.

**Law in the Making.** By Sir CARLETON KEMP ALLEN, M.C., Q.C., D.C.L., Hon. LL.D. (Glasgow), F.B.A., J.P., of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law. Eighth Edition. pp. xxxix and (with Index) 645. 1961. London: Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d. net.

This is not a new work. It first appeared on the legal scene in 1927 and reached its eighth edition in 1958, having in the meantime become justly established as the most mature and entertaining introduction to the sources of English law available, a classic treatise on critical jurisprudence. Now it stoops to conquer: the eighth edition has reappeared as a paperback at one-fifth of the price. No one interested in law has any excuse for not accepting this bargain. True, in the paperback edition only the Appendix on Administrative Tribunals has been brought up to date, but to ask any more would be greedy. Why cannot more such paperbacks appear? Law books generally are too big and cost too much.

**County Court Notebook.** Tenth Edition. By ERSKINE POLLOCK, LL.B., Solicitor. pp. 28. 1961. London: The Solicitors' Law Stationery Society, Ltd. 3s. net.

The tenth edition of the County Court Notebook follows hot-foot upon the ninth as a result of the County Court (Amendment) Rules, 1961. Now enclosed in a shiny white cover which adds to the appearance if not the price of the book, it follows faithfully the general form of its predecessors. Bearing in mind the size of the County Court Practice, it is astonishing that such a slim volume should produce in condensed form such a substantial proportion of its contents.

**Eighth Conference of the International Bar Association,** Salzburg, Austria, 4th-8th July, 1960. pp. xviii and (with Index) 626. 1960. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff—Publisher. Guilders 28.50.

This volume comprises brief descriptions of the proceedings of the Eighth Conference of the International Bar Association, a summary of the General Meeting and the text of the resolution on Sovereign Immunity which it adopted, the Treasurer's Report, and the complete texts of all official reports and papers.

One of the principal aims of the International Bar Association is to provide an international meeting ground for the practising lawyer and, although many topics considered at conferences have been of interest to specialists, the trend has been to emphasise questions which arise in everyday practice. This conference was no exception as the topics discussed included the client's privilege of secrecy in his communications with his attorney, the propriety of the use of tape-recorders and films for evidence and monopolies and restrictive trade practices. Another subject discussed was continuing education of the profession, and it is interesting to note that it seemed to be unanimously agreed that education of the lawyer should continue throughout his professional life and that such education could not be left to the individual lawyer. However, we share the view of Mr. E. W. Powell that correspondence courses would not be a popular means of achieving this end and, apart from its publications, doubt whether The Law Society can or should do much more than continue to arrange lectures, talks and conferences.

**Taxation Policies in Relation to International Investment.** Report of the International Chamber of Commerce Commission on Taxation. pp. 33. 1961. London: International Chamber of Commerce. 4s. 6d. net.

The International Chamber of Commerce has in recent years published a number of studies and statements of policy on particular aspects of taxation as it affects international trade and investment. In this statement attention is directed to the taxation policies which, in the opinion of the Commission on Taxation, are best suited to increasing and accelerating the flow of international investment and enterprise. It is a helpful document and will give all concerned with these problems much food for thought.

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GREAT YARMOUTH & GORLESTON, NORFOLK. At 10.58 on the morning of the 24th March, 1960, Lloyd's agent at Great Yarmouth informed the honorary secretary that there was a sick man aboard the Dutch tanker *Mare Novum*, which was proceeding towards Yarmouth Roads. The master had asked for a life-boat to meet him with a doctor. The life-boat Louise Stephens, with a doctor on board, was launched at low water at 1.2. There was a fresh easterly wind with a heavy swell. The doctor boarded the tanker and found the patient lying in the engine room with severe internal injuries. He decided the man was in too bad a state to be landed by life-boat. The tanker entered the harbour, where the patient was taken by ambulance to hospital. The life-boat reached her station at 1.31.



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## NOTES OF CASES

*These notes are published by arrangement with the Council of Law Reporting. Except in respect of those marked \*, full reports of the judgments, revised by the judges, will shortly appear in the Weekly Law Reports. A list of cases reported in today's issue of "W.L.R." is set out at the end of these notes.*

Case Editor: J. D. PENNINGTON, Esq., Barrister-at-Law

### House of Lords

#### LANDLORD AND TENANT: BUSINESS PREMISES: MEANING OF "LANDLORD"

##### *Bowes-Lyon v. Green*

Lord Reid, Lord Morton of Henryton, Lord Cohen, Lord Morris of Borth-y-Gest and Lord Hodson. 26th October, 1961

Appeal from the Court of Appeal ([1961] 1 W.L.R. 503; p. 280, *ante*).

R held certain premises under a very long lease. W held a sublease of the whole of the premises from R for a term expiring on 4th April, 1959. The respondent held a sublease of the ground floor and basement of the premises from W for a term expiring on 1st April, 1959. The appellant held a sublease of the ground floor only from the respondent for a term expiring on 31st March, 1959. Part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act, 1954, did not apply to W's tenancy, but applied to the respondent's tenancy and that of the appellant. By an instrument, dated 19th March, 1958, and called a reversionary lease, R granted the appellant a lease of the ground floor of the premises for a term of seven years from 5th April, 1959. In an action by the respondent for one quarter's rent due on 24th June, 1959, the appellant contended that s. 28 of the Act applied, that the instrument of 19th March, 1958, was an agreement between the landlord and the tenant for the grant to the tenant of a future tenancy of the holding on terms and from a date, viz., 5th April, 1959, specified in the agreement, that the appellant's tenancy was the "current tenancy" referred to in s. 28 of the Act, and that it was continued by s. 24 of the Act only until 5th April, 1959, and no longer, and was not, therefore, a tenancy to which Pt. II of the Act applied; and that the appellant was not the respondent's subtenant but the subtenant of R under the instrument dated 19th March, 1958, which bound the interest of the respondent, giving her a right to compensation under the Act. The Court of Appeal, affirming Pearson, J., held that R was not the landlord under s. 28 and that the respondent was entitled to recover the rent claimed. The appellant appealed.

LORD REID said that whether R was "the landlord" within the meaning of the Act on 19th March, 1958, involved consideration of s. 44, which contained a definition of "landlord." In order to succeed the appellant had to show that s. 28 applied to the reversionary lease granted by R and, therefore, that R was "the landlord" when he granted it. If the respondent's interest in the property at that time fulfilled conditions (a) and (b) of s. 44 (1) then she was "the landlord" and R was not. It was argued for the appellant that the tenancy referred to in s. 44 (1) (b) was only the contractual tenancy. In this case the respondent's contractual term came to an end on 1st April, 1959, within fourteen months of the relevant date, so it was said that her interest could not fulfil the condition. But that was confusing terms and tenancy; no tenancy came to an end on 1st April, 1959. At the relevant date the respondent's tenancy was protected by the Act and if it remained a protected tenancy it could not come to an end on the expiry of the contractual term. His lordship saw no ground for reading into the Act words to make it read "a tenancy of which the contractual term will not come to an end within fourteen months." It followed that, in his judgment, the respondent's interest for the time being on 19th March, 1958, fulfilled condition (b). It was not seriously argued that it did not fulfil condition (a). Accordingly, the respondent was "the landlord" and R was not. He would dismiss the appeal.

LORD COHEN delivered an opinion in favour of allowing the appeal.

The other noble and learned lords delivered opinions in favour of dismissing the appeal. Appeal dismissed.

APPEARANCES: *H. A. P. Fisher, Q.C.*, and *J. G. Wilmers (Layton & Co.)*; *C. L. Hawser, Q.C.*, and *C. Lawson, Q.C. (Tringhams)*.

[Reported by J. A. GRIFFITHS, Esq., Barrister-at-Law]

#### ESTATE DUTY: VALUATION OF SHARES: "CONTINGENT LIABILITIES"

##### *In re Sutherland; Winter and Others v. Inland Revenue Commissioners*

Lord Reid, Lord Tucker, Lord Birkett, Lord Hodson and Lord Guest. 26th October, 1961

Appeal from the Court of Appeal ([1960] Ch. 611; 104 Sol. J. 684).

The deceased had "control" of a company within the meaning of s. 55 of the Finance Act, 1940, during the five years ending with his death on 29th March, 1953, so that the shares which he held in the company fell to be valued for estate duty purposes by reference to the net value of the company's assets, pursuant to ss. 50 and 55 of the Act of 1940. The assets of the company included five ships for which, at the deceased's death, the company had received capital allowances under Pt. X of the Income Tax Act, 1952, leaving a sum as "expenditure unallowed" as defined by s. 297 of the 1952 Act. The ships were sold during the period November, 1953, to February, 1954, for a sum greater than the expenditure unallowed, and this gave rise to balancing charges under s. 292 of the 1952 Act, resulting in additional income tax and profits tax assessments at the current rates. The executors of the deceased took out a summons to determine whether under s. 50 (1) of the Finance Act, 1940, as applied by s. 55 (2) (c) of that Act, any allowance could be made for the balancing charge (giving rise to income tax and profits tax) in valuing the shares of the company for estate duty purposes at the deceased's death. Danckwerts, J., answered the question in the negative and the Court of Appeal affirmed his decision. The executors appealed.

LORD REID said that the question depended ultimately on the proper construction of the words "contingent liabilities" in s. 50 (1) of the Finance Act, 1940. There were two contingencies which had to be fulfilled or conditions which had to be purified before tax could be demanded from the company: the sums received for the ships must exceed the unallowed expenditure, and there must be no relevant change in the law and no failure to enact a Finance Act. In his lordship's opinion there was a contingent liability of the company to pay tax, because the essence of a contingent liability must surely be that it might never become an existing liability because the event on which it depended might never happen. In his view, the case must go back to the commissioners in order that they might make the estimation required by s. 50 (1) on the footing that at the date of death liability to pay under a balancing charge was a contingent liability which would become an immediate liability of the company if they sold or otherwise ceased to trade with the ships and received sums exceeding the expenditure still unallowed. He would allow the appeal.

LORD BIRKETT and LORD GUEST delivered opinions in favour of allowing the appeal.

LORD TUCKER and LORD HODSON delivered opinions in favour of dismissing the appeal.

Appeal allowed.

APPEARANCES: *Sir John Senter, Q.C.*, and *Roderick Watson (Hyde, Mahon & Pascall, for Keenlyside & Forster, Newcastle upon Tyne)*; *Viscount Bledisloe, Q.C.*, and *E. Blanshard Stamp (Solicitor of Inland Revenue)*.

[Reported by J. A. GRIFFITHS, Esq., Barrister-at-Law]

### Court of Appeal

#### DIVORCE: MAINTENANCE: LUMP SUM ACCEPTED IN FULL SATISFACTION: SUBSEQUENT APPLICATION

L v. L

Willmer and Davies, L.J.J. 23rd October, 1961

Appeal from Marshall, J. (p. 589, *ante*).

In 1953, while a husband and wife were living apart, the husband covenanted to pay the wife, during their joint lives or for a period of seven years, whichever should be the shorter, specified monthly sums for her maintenance. In 1955 the wife was granted a decree absolute of divorce on the ground of the husband's desertion. Her petition included a prayer for maintenance, but that prayer was not proceeded with. In 1958, the wife, who had herself opened negotiations for a lump sum settlement, agreed to accept £660 in full satisfaction of all present and future rights to maintenance, and the registrar made an order by consent in the form originating in *Mills v. Mills* [1940] P. 124, by which the prayer for maintenance in the wife's petition was dismissed. On 1st January, 1959, the Matrimonial Causes (Property and Maintenance) Act, 1958, came into force. In 1961, the wife, being then in receipt of national assistance, sought to claim maintenance from the husband. Marshall, J., holding that the Act of 1958 entitled her to make a fresh application with the leave of the court, granted her leave to do so. The husband appealed.

WILLMER, L.J., said that, on the true construction of the Act of 1958, the husband was entitled to succeed on the appeal. Before the Act of 1958, once an application for maintenance had been dismissed by the court, jurisdiction did not exist to entertain a fresh application. All that was provided by s. 1 of the Act of 1958 was that any power to award maintenance under s. 19 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1950, might be exercised either "on" pronouncing the decree or "at any time thereafter." If the Legislature had intended to confer a new right to make a second application, one would expect that to have been conferred in clear and unambiguous terms, and to have included some safeguards to cover cases where orders such as that made in *Mills v. Mills*, *supra*, had already been made. If that was wrong, his lordship considered that, on the authorities, this agreement, having been properly sanctioned by the court, was binding on the wife and precluded her from making a second attempt to obtain an order for maintenance. Finally, if, contrary to his lordship's view, there was jurisdiction to entertain this application, the judge had exercised his discretion to grant leave to the wife without giving due weight to the highly relevant fact of an agreement freely entered into, on the finality of which the husband had no doubt ordered his future financial obligations. The appeal should be allowed.

DAVIES, L.J., delivered a concurring judgment. Appeal allowed. Leave to appeal refused.

APPEARANCES: *John Latey, Q.C.*, and *Alan de Piro (Gamlen, Bowerman and Forward)*; *James Comyn, Q.C.*, and *John Mortimer (Benson, Mazure & Co.)*.

[Reported by Miss M. M. HILL, Barrister-at-Law]

#### PRACTICE: AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW APPEAL: WHETHER BINDING

National Benzole Co., Ltd. v. Gooch

Sellers, Upjohn and Diplock, L.J.J. 24th October, 1961  
Motion.

By his writ the plaintiff claimed £11,562 10s. under a guarantee. On 30th August, 1961, Master Lawrence, in chambers, gave the plaintiff leave to sign final judgment. The defendant's appeal from the master's order was dismissed by Plowman, J., on 5th September, 1961. By a notice of appeal dated 18th September, 1961, the defendant gave notice of appeal from the judge's order. By an agreement between the parties of 3rd October, 1961, the defendant requested that the appeal be dismissed and struck out of the list, and there was added, in writing, that there should be no order as to costs. The order was not drawn up. The defendant now asked that the appeal should be heard notwithstanding his request of 3rd October for its dismissal.

SELLERS, L.J., said that in *Lamont & Co., Ltd. v. Hyland, Ltd.* [1950] 1 K.B. 585, at p. 587, and also in *In re Samuel* [1945] Ch. 364, it was said that, no order having been drawn up, the matter was still open for consideration by the court, which was not to be deprived of its jurisdiction. But those cases lent no support to the plaintiff's motion because in those cases there was nothing in the nature of an agreement. Here there was an agreement which terminated the appeal between the parties. In those circumstances, the court had to see on what it could exercise its discretion. All that could be said was that at a later stage the defendant had changed his solicitors and counsel and got different advice. That was not sufficient ground on which the court could properly interfere.

UPJOHN and DIPLOCK, L.J.J., delivered concurring judgments. Motion dismissed.

APPEARANCES: *Ian Percival (Constant & Constant)*; *Alan Campbell (Bird & Bird)*.

[Reported by Mrs. IRENE G. R. MOSES, Barrister-at-Law]

#### DAMAGES: LOSS OF EYE: APPEAL ON QUANTUM DISMISSED: RECONSIDERATION BY COURT

Bastow v. Bagley & Co., Ltd.

Sellers, Upjohn and Diplock, L.J.J. 27th October, 1961

Further consideration of an appeal from Hinchcliffe, J. (*ante*, p. 885, *sub. nom. Barstow v. Bagley & Co., Ltd.*).

On 10th October, 1961, the court dismissed the plaintiff's appeal as to the quantum of damages, £1,150, awarded to him in respect of the loss of an eye. On 12th October, 1961, in *Wharton v. Sweeney*, p. 887, *ante*, another division of the Court of Appeal increased an award from £850 to £2,000 in respect of the loss of an eye in similar circumstances. On 27th October, the present appeal was reinstated before the Court of Appeal for a further hearing.

SELLERS, L.J., said that final judgment had not been entered in this appeal when the other division of the court had determined the appeal in *Wharton v. Sweeney*, *supra*, where the consequences affecting the plaintiff were broadly similar to those in this case. In that case the sum awarded, £850, was so low that it clearly required the court to intervene. In this case the award was £1,150, and having regard to the established principles which guided the court in reviewing damages it had left a doubt in the court's mind whether it would be proper to disturb it, but, as three of their brethren had assessed damages for the loss of an eye at £2,000, they were now satisfied that the disparity between that sum and the award here under review was too great to be just and fair to the plaintiff in all the circumstances. On the other hand, there was no statutory schedule and there never could be a sum which could be said to be established as the right sum

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to be awarded for the loss of an eye or a limb or any other bodily injury. Here the plaintiff's position was somewhat better than that of the plaintiff in *Wharton v. Sweeney* and, making allowance for that circumstance, they would award £1,800 damages and vary the judge's order accordingly.

DIPLOCK, L.J., delivered a concurring judgment.

UPJOHN, L.J., agreed. Appeal allowed.

APPEARANCES: *Marven Everett, Q.C.*, and *S. E. Brodie (W. H. Thompson)*; *Stanley Price, Q.C.*, and *Donald Herrod (Geo. A. Herbert, for Willey Hargrave & Co., Leeds)*.

[Reported by Mrs. IRENE G. R. MOSES, Barrister-at-Law]

## Chancery Division

### CHARITY: TRUST FOR "HOSPITAL AND/OR HOSPITALS AND/OR CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS": WHETHER CHARITABLE

*In re Smith; Barclays Bank, Ltd. v. Mercantile Bank, Ltd., and Others*

Wilberforce, J. 4th October, 1961

Adjourned summons.

By his will, dated 19th January, 1931, a testator directed his trustees, in the events which happened, to hold the trust funds on trust to pay the income to his wife during her life and after her death, by cl. 8 of his will, "upon trust to pay or apply the same and the income thereof to or for the benefit of such hospital and/or hospitals and/or charitable institutions" as the trustees thought fit. The testator died on 6th April, 1938, and his widow died on 8th August, 1959. The trustees took out a summons to determine whether the trust in cl. 8 was a valid charitable trust.

WILBERFORCE, J., said that, interpreting the wording of the clause at its face value, it enabled the trustees to give the fund, or some part of it, to hospitals which were either charitable or non-charitable institutions. It was, therefore, not a valid charitable gift and failed for uncertainty. Order accordingly.

APPEARANCES: *E. G. Wright (Corbin, Greener & Cook, for Beaumont & Sansom, Coggeshall)*; *S. W. Templeman (Sanderson, Lee, Morgan, Price & Co.)*; *Bryan Clauson (Treasury Solicitor)*.

[Reported by Miss M. G. THOMAS, Barrister-at-Law]

### TRUSTS: VARIATION: EXTENSION OF INVESTMENT CLAUSE: WHETHER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: TRUSTEE INVESTMENTS ACT, 1961

*In re Porritt's Will Trusts*

Pennycuik, J. 25th October, 1961

Adjourned summons.

By his will, a testator, who died in 1948, left his residuary estate on trust for his wife for life and after her death for certain of his children and their issue. The will provided that the trustees might invest only in trustee securities but that they might retain investments existing at the testator's death. The value of the estate at the testator's death was about £50,000 and it included £9,000 of ordinary stock in Porritt & Spencer, Ltd., which was worth about £10,000. The value of that stock, including bonus issues, at the date of the summons was £130,000. The trustees had retained another investment of the testator which was worth £3,000. The balance of the fund was invested in trustee securities and was worth about £12,000. The trustees applied for an extension of their powers of investment to enable them to invest the whole of the trust fund in certain equities.

PENNYCUICK, J., said that the court should not, in the absence of special circumstances, enlarge the range of investments beyond that prescribed by the Trustee Investments Act, 1961. In the present case, there were no special circumstances. Counsel had relied for a special circumstance on the fact that by far the greater part of the fund was in the stock of a single company. So far from being a special circumstance, that was a position which must regularly arise and the alternative courses open to trustees were contemplated by the Act, i.e., they might retain in whole or in part but, in so far as they sold, they must invest in accordance with the Act. Application dismissed.

APPEARANCES: *R. Cozens-Hardy Horne*; *J. A. Wolfe (Gregory, Rowcliffe & Co., for Woodcock & Sons, Haslingden, Lancashire)*.

[Reported by Miss V. A. MOXON, Barrister-at-Law]

## Queen's Bench Division

### ROAD TRAFFIC: DRIVING IN EXCESS OF SPEED LIMIT: WHETHER DANGEROUS DRIVING

*\*Tribe v. Jones*

Lord Parker, C.J., Ashworth and Veale, JJ.

19th October, 1961

Case stated by Southampton justices.

On 9th November, 1960, the defendant was followed by a police car as he was driving along the main road from London to Southampton and, in the course of half a mile, his speed varied between 45 and 65 miles an hour. The road was subject to a 30 miles an hour speed limit. An information was preferred against the defendant alleging that he was driving at a speed dangerous to the public, contrary to s. 2 (1) of the Road Traffic Act, 1960. The justices found that the road was wide, well-surfaced and bounded by common land, that the traffic on the road was light as it was twenty minutes past seven in the morning, and that at the time the weather was fine and the visibility was quite good, although the roads were damp. The justices were of the opinion that, at the speed at which the defendant was driving, there was no potential danger to other road users other than that inherently present when any car was driven in a manner not conforming to the law, and they dismissed the information. The prosecutor appealed.

VEALE, J., said that the justices had rightly concluded that there had been a flagrant breach of the speed limit, but in his lordship's view a fast speed which was in excess of the 30 miles an hour speed limit was not automatically dangerous, although in some and, indeed, in many cases, it might well be so. On the facts of the case, the justices were entitled to find as they did.

LORD PARKER, C.J., and ASHWORTH, J., agreed. Appeal dismissed.

APPEARANCES: *P. Wrightson (Sharpe, Pritchard & Co., for A. N. Schofield, Southampton)*.

[Reported by Miss STEINBERG, Barrister-at-Law]

### PATENT: USE OF INVENTION BY CROWN: WHETHER LOSS JUSTIFYING EXTENSION

*R. v. Patents Appeal Tribunal; ex parte National Research Development Corporation*

Lord Parker, C.J., Ashworth and Veale, JJ.

24th October, 1961

Application for an order of certiorari.

In February, 1960, the superintending examiner acting for the Comptroller of Patents ordered, on an application under s. 24 of the Patents Act, 1949, that the term of a patent

relating to Bailey Bridges due to expire on 12th October, 1961, should be extended for three years, such extension being referable to the period after the war. He refused to order any extension in respect of the period of the war and the applicants, the assignees of the patent, duly appealed from that refusal to the Patents Appeal Tribunal (Lloyd-Jacob, J.), which upheld the superintending examiner's decision. The applicants applied for an order of certiorari to quash the decision of the tribunal on the ground that there were errors of law apparent on the face of its judgment. The complaints were that (in para. 3) the tribunal had rejected their contention that the use of the invention by the Crown during the war years was not an exploitation of the patent, and that, inasmuch as such use by the Crown could not properly be described as gainful, it should be disregarded for the purposes of s. 24; and that (in para. 4) the tribunal had dealt only with the question whether the extended use of the invention achieved after the war could or would have been achieved during the war years, but for hostilities.

ASHWORTH, J., said that if the patent was exploited during the war years, the question of gain appeared, if not irrelevant, at any rate not conclusive. As to para. 4, he did not read it in the sense alleged and in his view the tribunal was there dealing with commercial exploitation generally. In his lordship's view an essential element in any claim for an extension under s. 24 was proof of loss or damage by reason of hostilities. It was incumbent on an applicant to prove not merely that as a result of the war there had been a lack of opportunity of dealing in or developing the invention but that such lack of opportunity occasioned loss or damage to an extent which would justify some extension of the term of the patent. On the material before the court the evidence failed to establish any such loss and there was nothing to show that the tribunal's conclusion was wrong in law. There was no error of law on the face of the record. He would dismiss the motion.

LORD PARKER, C.J., and VEALE, J., delivered concurring judgments. Application dismissed.

APPEARANCES: *Guy Aldous, Q.C.*, and *Douglas Falconer (Edwin Coe & Calder Woods)*; *Stuart Bevan (Solicitor, Board of Trade)*.

[Reported by G. L. PIMM, Esq., Barrister-at-Law]

### ROAD TRAFFIC: RESTRICTED STREET: CAR LEFT OUTSIDE HOME FOR FIVE MINUTES

**Clifford-Turner v. Waterman**

Lord Parker, C.J., Ashworth and Veale, J.J.

24th October, 1961

Case stated by the Marlborough Street magistrate.

On 24th September, 1961, at 10.35 a.m., the defendant took his car to his home and left it in the street outside while he took a parcel from the car to his flat and fetched two parcels from it, bringing his wife back with him. The house was in a restricted street. The defendant was away for five minutes and on his return he found a traffic warden by his car. He was charged with unlawfully causing a vehicle to wait in a restricted street during the prescribed hours, contrary to regs. 3 and 4 of the London Parking Zones (Waiting and Loading) (Restrictions) Regulations, 1960, and reg. 1 of the regulations made by the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis on 16th September, 1960, under s. 35 of the Road Traffic Act, 1960. The magistrate convicted. The defendant appealed, relying on the exemption in reg. 4 of the London Parking Zones (Waiting and Loading) (Restrictions) Regulations, 1960.

LORD PARKER, C.J., said that the regulations absolutely prohibited vehicles from waiting in restricted streets during the prescribed hours except for as long as might be necessary

to enable anyone to board or alight. It was contended that the words "so long as might be necessary" in reg. 4 enabled the defendant to leave his car while he went to his flat and returned with his wife and parcels. That was an impossible interpretation; there was no ambiguity in the regulations and the magistrate was right in convicting.

ASHWORTH, J., said that in his view the regulations did not permit anything more than a vehicle stopping for someone to get in or out.

VEALE, J., agreed. Appeal dismissed.

APPEARANCES: *A. J. Irvine, Q.C.*, and *Henry Summerfield (Amery-Parkes & Co.)*; *Paul Wrightson (Solicitor, Metropolitan Police)*.

[Reported by G. L. PIMM, Esq., Barrister-at-Law]

### NEGLIGENCE: SOLICITOR: PURCHASE OF ANNUITY FOR ELDERLY SICK CLIENT

**Dunn v. Fairs, Blissard, Barnes & Stowe**

Barry, J. 26th October, 1961

Action.

In 1952 and again in 1956 a client consulted a solicitor about the sale of a house. On 7th January, 1957, she told him that she had had a seventy-seventh birthday and that money was then available from the sale of a house, and she discussed the question of buying an annuity with him. The solicitor thought that worry over her financial affairs was affecting her health and suggested that the purchase of an annuity should be postponed until she had had time to look for accommodation and consult her doctor. Later, she wrote to him saying that when cash was available he was to invest it in an annuity and that she had had a talk with her doctor and that he thought that a sum should be invested to bring in £3 a week, and the solicitor was to arrange for the purchase of an annuity accordingly. He had told her that she would deprive her relatives of the estate if a certain form of annuity was taken and she had then said that she had no relatives who took any interest in her and did not want to leave them any money. The solicitor set about getting a quotation, but on 5th February she wrote to him from the Marie Curie Hospital, and when he received the letter he realised that she might be suffering, or suspected of suffering, from cancer. He wrote to her asking to be told whether the annuity was to be arranged forthwith or at a later date. She wrote back telling him to arrange the annuity forthwith. The annuity was purchased for £1,303, but long before the first payment was due under it she died in hospital. The administrator of her estate claimed damages against the solicitor's firm, alleging that, through him, they were negligent in causing or permitting the client to purchase the annuity and that, since she was suffering from inoperable cancer, the bargain was unfavourable and her estate had been deprived of £1,303.

BARRY, J., said that the question was whether the client would have had a cause of action against the defendants for allowing her to part with a sum of money which was wasted; they owed no duty to the possible executors or administrators of her estate. In the circumstances, until he was aware that she was or might be suffering from cancer, the solicitor was entitled to assume that the doctors did not consider investment in an annuity uneconomic and he was justified in advising her to invest her capital in the purchase of one. It had been suggested that when he discovered the nature of her illness there was a duty on him to consult with her doctor, when he would have discovered that she had only a year or two to live and would have appreciated that the purchase was uneconomic. He had been placed in a dilemma, for he owed a duty to his client and was faced with having to proceed with the purchase or take action which would have led her to suspect that she was suffering from an incurable disease. The solicitor had considered the situation with



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(Continued on p. xix)

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great care and his lordship was not satisfied that his decision to allow her to invest as she did could in any sense be regarded as negligent. The solicitor owed no duty to the present plaintiff and had come to a right decision, which was made in good faith and was in no sense negligent or one involving a breach of duty. Judgment for the defendants.

APPEARANCES: S. C. Silkin (*Lewis Silkin & Partners*); P. M. O'Connor, Q.C., and Raymond Kidwell (*Hewitt, Woollacott & Chown*).

[Reported by Miss J. F. LAMB, Barrister-at-Law]

### Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division

#### DIVORCE: APPLICATION BY CO-RESPONDENT TO BE DISMISSED FROM SUIT: WHETHER PUT TO ELECTION

**\*Rasbash v. Rasbash and Bull**

Wrangham, J. 25th October, 1961

Defended suit for divorce.

A husband petitioned for divorce on the ground, *inter alia*, of the wife's adultery with the co-respondent, against whom £2,000 damages were claimed. At the close of the husband's case, counsel for the co-respondent applied for him to be dismissed from the suit, under s. 5 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1950, on the ground that there was insufficient evidence of adultery against him.

WRANGHAM, J., said that, when counsel for the co-respondent indicated that he desired to make a submission that the co-respondent ought to be dismissed from the suit, the question arose whether the court was under a duty to hear that submission without putting counsel to his election as to calling evidence, or whether it had an unfettered discretion to decide if counsel should be put to his election. In *Gilbert v. Gilbert and Abdon* [1958] P. 131, Sachs, J., held that the court's discretion in the matter was unfettered. Counsel was unable to advance any argument why that view should not be followed and, accordingly, his lordship had put him to his election. Counsel elected to call no evidence and to rest upon his submission. Having considered the evidence, his lordship held that there was not sufficient evidence against the co-respondent and that he should be dismissed from the suit. In view of his conduct, however, there would be no order as to costs. Order accordingly.

APPEARANCES: R. L. Bayne-Powell (*Cooper, Bake, Fettes, Roche & Wade*); Roger Gray (*Wildman, Millington & Co.*); Mark Smith (*Robinson & Bradley*).

[Reported by D. R. ELLISON, Esq., Barrister-at-Law]

#### DIVORCE: TRANSVESTISM: WHETHER CRUELTY BY WIFE

**\*T v. T**

Judge Glazebrook, sitting as a Divorce Commissioner.

26th October, 1961

Undefended suit for divorce.

The parties were married in 1945, in India, where they were both serving in the forces. About the end of 1946 they returned to live in England. Thereafter, the wife refused the husband sexual intercourse; she refused to wear skirts; she bought a complete outfit of men's clothes, including underwear, after which she invariably dressed completely as a man. She used a man's bicycle, smoked a pipe, and, although she was a qualified shorthand typist, refused to follow that occupation, and worked first as a factory hand and later as a stable hand. The wife's conduct so distressed the husband that his health was affected.

JUDGE GLAZEBROOK said that, although it was within the wife's power to check her masculine tendency, she did nothing

whatever to check it. On the contrary, she wished to be a man and sought to encourage her tendency. She knew it was causing her husband great distress, and that it was likely to cause the break-up of the marriage. Her conduct in those circumstances amounted in law to cruelty. The husband would be granted, in the exercise of the court's discretion in respect of his adultery, a decree nisi.

APPEARANCES: M. R. Hickman (*Parlett, Kent & Co.*).

[Reported by D. R. ELLISON, Esq., Barrister-at-Law]

#### DIVORCE: INCURABLE UNSOUNDNESS OF MIND: CARE AND TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING PRESENTATION OF PETITION: MEANING

**Chapman v. Chapman (by his guardian)**

Marshall, J. 26th October, 1961

Defended suit for divorce.

On 3rd December, 1959, the wife presented a petition for divorce on the ground that the husband was incurably of unsound mind and had been continuously under care and treatment for a period of at least five years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition. The Official Solicitor, as guardian ad litem of the husband, filed an answer putting both elements of the wife's case in issue. The husband was admitted to a mental hospital on 28th September, 1952, under a summary reception order, suffering from paranoid schizophrenia; he remained there until 7th November, 1959, when he was allowed to leave, the hospital physician being of the opinion that he was well enough to live outside hospital provided he continued to take large doses of largactil.

MARSHALL, J., said that the position at the date of the hearing of the suit was that the husband, who still suffered from paranoid schizophrenia, (i) was no longer subject to any reception order; (ii) was no longer under medical care or treatment; (iii) was able substantially to control his condition by taking drugs; (iv) was capable of securing and following employment and of earning wages; (v) was living normally at a church army hostel, without any special supervision or care. In the light of all these factors, the wife had failed to establish that the husband, at the date of the hearing, was incurably of unsound mind in the sense of being incapable of managing himself and his affairs, bearing in mind that affairs must be held to include the problems of work, society and marriage. The petition also failed for another reason. To come within the section, the wife must show that, at the date of the presentation of the petition, the husband was under care and treatment which had lasted continuously for at least five years. When the husband left hospital on 7th November, 1959, care and treatment ceased. Although the wife presented her petition less than twenty-eight days later, and although, by s. 1 (3) of the Divorce (Insanity and Desertion) Act, 1958, in determining whether any period of care and treatment had been interrupted, any interruption for twenty-eight days or less was to be disregarded, the subsection could not apply where care and treatment had ceased before the petition was presented. Petition dismissed.

APPEARANCES: T. R. Heald (*Kinch & Richardson*, for *Fowler & Co., Oakham*); R. B. H. Pearce (*Official Solicitor*).

[Reported by D. R. ELLISON, Esq., Barrister-at-Law]

#### CORRECTION

*In re Matthews' Will Trusts; Bristow v. Matthews*

The penultimate sentence in the report at p. 888, *ante*, should read: "Thus both duties were payable from the Roberts Hotel moiety in exoneration of the residue."



## THE WEEKLY LAW REPORTS

## CASES INCLUDED IN TODAY'S ISSUE OF THE W.L.R.

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## NOTES AND NEWS

## CRIMINAL APPEAL SYSTEM

The organisation "Justice" has set up a committee, with the co-operation of The Law Society, to inquire into the working of the criminal appeal system, under the chairmanship of Lord Merthyr. The committee includes Mr. Roderic Bowen, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Peter Rawlinson, Q.C., M.P., Professor A. L. Goodhart, Q.C., a number of other members of the Bar and Messrs. A. S. S. Cotton, A. C. Prothero, A. E. Cox and H. H. Norris, solicitors nominated by The Law Society. The terms of reference of the committee, which held its first meeting on 25th October, are as follows: To consider the present system and procedure of criminal appeals as provided for in the Criminal Appeal Act, 1907, and in particular: (a) Whether the existing constitution and structure of the Court of Criminal Appeal is appropriate for the duties which a criminal appeal court should perform. (b) Whether the present powers of the court, and the rules and procedure followed in dealing with criminal appeals, are conducive to the discovery and remedying of any miscarriages of justice which may occur in the lower courts. (c) Whether the facilities available to convicted persons for legal assistance and the obtaining of bail are adequate for the preparation and presentation of their appeals.

## "THE CITIZEN AND THE ADMINISTRATION"

The following is a summary of the recommendations concerning the establishment of a British Ombudsman made in the report by "Justice," referred to on p. 915, *ante*.

A permanent body to be known as the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner (or by some other suitable title) should be established, having a status similar to the Comptroller and Auditor-General, to receive and investigate complaints of maladministration against Government departments. The Parliamentary Commissioner should at first receive complaints only from Members of both Houses of Parliament, but at a later stage, when his jurisdiction is well established and understood, consideration should be given to extending his powers to enable him to receive complaints direct from the public. Before commencing an investigation of a complaint against a department, the Parliamentary Commissioner should notify the minister concerned, who should be entitled to veto the proposed investigation. The Parliamentary Commissioner should have access to departmental files when conducting his investigations, but for this purpose departmental files should not include internal minutes. The Parliamentary Commissioner's investigations should be conducted as informally as possible to cause the minimum interference with the ordinary work of the departments. The Parliamentary Commissioner should submit an annual report to Parliament on the more important cases which he has investigated and special reports from time to time on cases of particular interest. His reports should be modelled on the Comptroller and Auditor-General's reports in the sense that any criticisms should be confined to the department and should not mention civil servants by name.

## ART EXHIBITION

The winning entries at The Law Society's art exhibition, held between 23rd October and 3rd November, were: (1) "Autumn Wood," by Michael Rubinstein; (2) "View from Room 27," by H. S. Maxwell Wood; and (3) "Joan—1960," by R. I. Adam. In addition, "Factory," by Anthony B. Lousada, was specially commended. All those named are solicitors practising in London.

## BRANDARIS INSURANCE COMPANY

The Minister of Transport has considered the position arising from the making of a winding-up order in the Companies Court against Brandaris Insurance Company in the United Kingdom effective from 23rd October, 1961. From this date all Brandaris motor policies became ineffective and claims by policy holders arising out of accidents occurring after that date will not be recoverable. In statements issued on 5th October last, the Minister of Transport and the London solicitors to the Brandaris Company stressed that all Brandaris policy-holders should take out other insurance. Now that the liquidation order has been made, the Minister of Transport wishes to draw the attention of motorists with such policies, who may not yet have reinsured, to the fact that as from 23rd October, 1961, they are no longer insured against third party risks, as required by the Road Traffic Act, 1960.

## COLLEGE REUNION

An evening reception and reunion will be held at University College London on Friday, 16th February, 1962. Former undergraduates or postgraduates who entered the college during the period October, 1920, to June, 1930, are invited. Applications for tickets (which are limited and will be issued in order of application) should be made by 30th November to the Assistant Secretary, University College London, Gower Street, W.C.1.

## Societies

The CORNWALL LAW SOCIETY held its annual general meeting at the Great Western Hotel, Newquay, on 21st October. The following officers were appointed for the year 1961-62: President, Mr. J. M. Barton; vice-president, Mr. W. L. Broad; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. P. B. Cocks. At the annual luncheon following the meeting the official guests were: His Honour Judge H. R. B. Shepherd, Q.C.; Mr. P. T. F. Smith, area secretary of the No. 4 (South Western) Legal Aid Area; Mr. R. H. Sweet, hon. secretary of the Incorporated Law Society of Plymouth; Mr. V. O. N. Donnithorne, president of the Devon and Exeter Incorporated Law Society; Mr. Hugh Eames Park, recorder of Exeter; and Mr. Cecil A. Parker, vice-chairman of the Legal Aid Committee, Bristol.

The CROYDON AND DISTRICT LAW SOCIETY held its annual dinner dance on Friday, 20th October, at the Selsden Park Hotel. Two hundred and fifteen people, including guests, attended, and speeches were given by the president, Mr. Leonard Hollands, and the recorder of Croydon, Mr. Stanley Rees, T.D., Q.C.

## "THE SOLICITORS' JOURNAL"

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**THE ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, SOLICITORS' JOURNAL, OYEZ HOUSE, BREAMS BUILDINGS, FETTER LANE, E.C.4. CHANCERY 4855****PUBLIC NOTICES****BOROUGH OF HARROW****APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ASSISTANT SOLICITOR**

Applications are invited from Solicitors with Local Government experience for the appointment of Chief Assistant Solicitor in my Department; Salary Scale "B" (£1,417—£1,670 p.a.).

The Council may be able to help with housing accommodation for a temporary period in the light of the applicant's circumstances.

Contributions towards removal expenses will also be considered.

Application forms, obtainable from me, to be returned, not later than Monday, 27th November, 1961.

**DAVID PRITCHARD,**  
Town Clerk.Town Clerk's Office,  
Harrow Weald Lodge,  
92 Uxbridge Road,  
Harrow, Middx.**BOROUGH OF EDMONTON****LEGAL ASSISTANT (UNADMITTED)**

Applications are invited for this appointment at a salary within Grade A.P.T. III of the National Scales of Salaries (£960—£1,140, plus £45 London Weighting). Candidates should have experience of Conveyancing and Common Law and general legal work. Experience with a Local Authority is not essential. Five-day week.

Applications on Forms obtainable from the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Edmonton, N.9, must be delivered by the 25th November.

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT SOLICITOR**

Applications are invited for the above-mentioned appointment, the duties of which will be in connection with prosecutions, advocacy and general legal work. Salary range A.P.T. III/V (£960—£1,480). Commencing salary according to age, qualifications and experience. Applications, with the names of two referees, should reach the undersigned by the 13th November, 1961.

**G. T. HECKELS,**  
Clerk of the County Council.County Hall,  
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Kent.**BOROUGH OF BRENTFORD AND CHISWICK****CONVEYANCING ASSISTANT**

Applications invited from unadmitted conveyancing clerks for this post on salary range £1,005 to £1,355 per annum commencing according to age and experience.

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Write full details to undersigned.

**W. F. J. CHURCH,**  
Town Clerk.Town Hall,  
Chiswick, W.4.**HAMPSHIRE**

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Applications, with personal details and full particulars of experience and names and addresses of two referees, to undersigned by 13th November, 1961.

**EDWARD S. SAYWELL,**  
Clerk of the Council.Council Offices,  
Northwood,  
Middlesex.  
26th October, 1961.**ROTHERHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL****APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL ASSISTANT (UNADMITTED)**

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Assistance with housing, if required.

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Clerk of the Council.Council Offices,  
Esher,  
Surrey.**BOROUGH OF PUDSEY DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

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## Classified Advertisements



continued from p. xxii

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**LADIES IN REDUCED CIRCUMSTANCES**

Founded by the late Miss Smallwood

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

This Society is entirely supported by Voluntary Contributions

In these anxious times this Society is carrying on its much-needed work of helping  
poor ladies, many elderly and some great invalids. All gifts of money gratefully  
received. If you cannot give a donation now

please remember this work in your Will

Will Lawyers kindly advise their clients to help this Society, making cheques payable to:—

**Miss Smallwood's Society, Lancaster House, Malvern**

